



**OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS**

---

**SUMMARY RECORDS OF MEETINGS**  
**22 SEPTEMBER — 21 DECEMBER 1971**

**UNITED NATIONS**



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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The *Official Records of the General Assembly* for a given session consist of records of meetings, annexes to those records and supplements, as well as certain other documents specifically identified as *Official Records*. Information on other documents, issued in offset or mimeographed form, is given in the relevant annex fascicles and in the general check list of documents. This check list and the complete list of delegations appear as separate fascicles.

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ACAQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECAFE	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSAB	International Civil Service Advisory Board
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ONUC	United Nations Operation in the Congo
PPBS	Planning-Programming-Budgeting Systems
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCURK	United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESOB	United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

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## AGENDA

[*Note:* The items are listed in the order in which they appeared in the letter dated 25 September 1971 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/1367/Rev.1).<sup>1</sup> The number of the item on the General Assembly's agenda is indicated in brackets after the title of each item.]

At its 1939th plenary meeting, on 25 September 1971, the General Assembly decided to allocate the following items on the agenda of the twenty-sixth session to the Fifth Committee for consideration and report:

1. Financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors [74]:
  - (a) United Nations;
  - (b) United Nations Development Programme;
  - (c) United Nations Children's Fund;
  - (d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
  - (e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
  - (f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
2. Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 [75].
3. Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 [76].<sup>2</sup>
4. Planning estimate for the financial year 1973 [77].
5. Pattern of conferences [78]:
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General;
  - (b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly [79]:
  - (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
  - (b) Committee on Contributions;
  - (c) Board of Auditors;
  - (d) Investments Committee: confirmation of the appointments made by the Secretary-General;
  - (e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal;
  - (f) United Nations Staff Pension Committee.
7. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions [80].
8. Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions [81].
9. Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General [82].

<sup>1</sup> At the 1425th meeting of the Fifth Committee its Chairman proposed a schedule of work which, subject to later modifications, the Committee should follow in its consideration of the items allocated to it.

<sup>2</sup> The Committee also considered under this item the administrative and financial implications of the proposals referred to it, under rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, by other Committees of the Assembly in connexion with agenda items 12, 23, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 47, 48, 49, 59, 66, 72, 87, 89, 90, 91, 95 and 100.



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*Temporary Chairman: Mr. Adam MALIK (Indonesia).*

**ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. BEAULNE (Canada) nominated Mr. Edward Olu Sanu (Nigeria).

*Mr. Sanu (Nigeria) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

*The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.*

## 10. Publications and documentation of the United Nations [83]:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit;
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

## 11. Personnel questions [84]:

- (a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Other personnel questions.

## 12. Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board [85].

## 13. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters XXI and XXII] [12].

[The General Assembly decided to refer chapters XXI (Development and co-ordination of the activities of the organizations within the United Nations system and relations with non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations) and XXII (Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit) also to the Second and Third Committees.

The General Assembly also suggested:

- (a) That chapter XIII (Regional co-operation), section A (Reports of the regional economic commissions and of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut), allocated to the Second Committee, chapter XVII (Human rights), section C (Policies of *apartheid* and racial discrimination), allocated to the Special Political Committee, chapter XIX (Assistance in cases of natural disaster), allocated to the Third Committee, and chapter XXIV (Organizational and other questions), section B (Calendar of conferences), referred for consideration directly in plenary meetings, might be of concern to the Fifth Committee;
- (b) That chapter IV (Measures to improve the organization of the work of the Council), referred for consideration directly in plenary meetings, might be of interest to the Fifth Committee.]

## 14. Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly [section IX] [26].

[The General Assembly decided to refer item 26 for consideration directly in plenary meetings. The Assembly also decided to refer section XII (Recommendation of the Special Committee), annex I (Amendments to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly), of the report to the Sixth Committee.]

At its 1999th plenary meeting, on 3 December 1971, the General Assembly decided to include the following item in the agenda of its twenty-sixth session:

Amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly [101].

The Assembly also decided to allocate the item to the Fifth Committee for discussion and report (see A/C.5/1413).





*Wednesday, 22 September 1971,  
at 11.25 a.m.*

**NEW YORK**

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*Temporary Chairman: Mr. Adam MALIK (Indonesia).*

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**ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. BEAULNE (Canada) nominated Mr. Edward Olu Sanu (Nigeria).

*Mr. Sanu (Nigeria) was elected Chairman by acclamation.*

*The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.*



**Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).**

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee was meeting at a time when the Organization's financial crisis was casting a shadow over its future existence. The goodwill of Member States was an essential element in the achievement of the objectives of the Organization but by itself it was not enough; it had to be backed by concrete financial commitments. In the introduction (A/8401/Add.1 and Corr.1) to his report on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the continuing deterioration of the finances of the Organization, which during the past year had led to difficulties in paying the salaries of officials. In fact, the situation was such that the United Nations, in the words of the Secretary-General, "must very soon face the fact that it is a bankrupt Organization" (*ibid.*, para. 12). There was not much that the Fifth Committee could do to improve the situation, but it could support the Secretary-General and thus help to convince Member States that the Organization could not carry out its programme of activities without an appreciable improvement in its finances. The Fifth Committee had the responsibility of ensuring that the meagre resources at the disposal of the United Nations were prudently utilized and administered. That would be the major task of the Committee at the current session.

2. It was distressing that the United Nations should find itself in that financial position at a time when it should be expanding its activities in the field of economic development. The deteriorating terms of trade against the developing countries, the growing shortage of investment capital, the problems arising from the servicing of external debt and the increasing monetary instability, over which the developing countries had no control, were all contributing considerably to the worsening of their economic situation. In those circumstances, the United Nations, which under the Charter had assumed the obligation to promote social progress and better standards of life for all peoples through international co-operation, could not renounce its obligations by curtailing its activities in the field of development. It was essential that, in considering the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 that would be presented by the Secretary-General, the Committee should bear in mind that international peace and security depended upon a just political, economic and social order and that any attempt to relegate economic and social progress to the background would in the long run be self-defeating.

3. At the current session the Fifth Committee would be called upon to discuss questions which might lead to

fundamental changes in the methods used by the United Nations to achieve its basic objectives. The first of those questions was the reappraisal of the policies, programmes and practices of the United Nations in the matter of public information, which had been deferred to the twenty-sixth session. The dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations was essential in order to awaken public consciousness of the purposes of the Organization and the considerable influence it could have on the great trends of the era. He hoped that the Committee's recommendations on that question would be such as to ensure greater effectiveness of the United Nations activities in the matter of public information, taking into account the limited resources of the Organization.

4. Another question related to the problem of the most effective programming and allocation of international resources. While it was agreed that programme budgeting could become an essential aid to proper management, that could only be so if the necessary pre-conditions and organizational framework were established. To that end the Secretary-General would be proposing legislative and organizational changes. The Committee would have to await the new budget presentation which the Secretary-General had promised before any serious assessment could be carried out. In view, however, of the far-reaching implications of the new procedures, both for the establishment of an acceptable planning estimate and for the structure of the Organization, it was the duty of the Committee to examine the new form critically in order to ascertain whether the changes proposed by the Secretary-General would really contribute to the ability of the United Nations to carry out its task in the economic and political fields.

5. The Committee would have other questions to study, too; in particular, it would have to examine the recommendations of the Administration and Management Service in respect of the remaining departments of the Secretariat in New York and Geneva and the important question of personnel, especially with regard to staff training to ensure increased productivity of staff.

6. The Fifth Committee had a pivotal role to play in the functioning of the United Nations system. It was perhaps the only body that could examine all the activities of the United Nations in their broad perspective. That imposed on the Committee the duty to ensure that the aims of the Organization could be reconciled to the resources available.

7. The members of the Committee, who had so often concerned themselves with questions of rationalization, could set an example by exercising restraint in the discussions.

### ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

8. Mr. SELMECI (Hungary) nominated Mr. Gregor Woschnagg (Austria).

*Mr. Woschnagg (Austria) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

### ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

9. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) nominated Mr. Babooram Rambissoon (Trinidad and Tobago).

*Mr. Rambissoon (Trinidad and Tobago) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (A/C.5/1367/REV.1; A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.1)

10. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to Conference Room Paper MAIN COMMITTEES/2 concerning documentation and interpretation.

11. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), supported by Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) and Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), said that it would be better for the Committee to start its work by taking up item 74 relating to the financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors, as had been the practice some years earlier. That would be the most logical procedure.

12. The CHAIRMAN explained that the consideration of item 74 had been placed later on the list in order to enable the Chairman and members of the Board of Auditors to be present and to reply to any questions that might be asked during the consideration of the item. The Committee was, however, free to decide in what order the items should be taken up.

13. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) proposed that arrangements might be made for questions asked during the consideration of item 74 to be answered even if the Auditors were not present.

14. The CHAIRMAN, noting that it seemed to be the wish of the Committee that agenda item 74 should be taken up first, suggested that in the absence of members of the Board of Auditors the Secretary of the Board could perhaps be requested to reply to any questions asked.

15. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that he agreed that it would be more logical to start with item 74, but certain Auditors, who owing to official engagements were unable to attend the first meetings of the Fifth Committee, had requested that the consideration of that item should be deferred for a week or 10 days. It would not be proper for the Secretary of the Board of Auditors to speak on behalf of a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The Committee could perhaps make an exception and accede to the request of the Board of Auditors, on the understanding that at future sessions that item would be taken up first.

16. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) pointed out that the Committee had acceded to a similar request in recent

years and that that had delayed its work; thus there was also a practical side to the question. The documents relating to a large number of items had not yet been distributed. If the Committee started its work with a general discussion of agenda item 76 (Budget estimates for the financial year 1972), it was likely that only a small number of members would be ready to speak at the present stage. If the Committee began by considering item 74, it would not waste time waiting for the appearance of the documents it needed in order to take up the first three items (items 74, 75 and 76) on its agenda, which were of great importance.

17. Mr. TURNER (Controller) replied that, if the Committee wished to follow that procedure, which was the most logical, the Auditors could be asked to send representatives to the Committee to reply to questions on their behalf.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, he would consider that the Committee would start its work with the consideration of item 74.

*It was so decided.*

19. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) would like the Committee to preface its work by deciding on the agenda items to be considered at the current session, and those to be held over for consideration at a later session.

20. With regard to subparagraph 9 (ii) in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.1, relating to agenda item 82, he would like to have details concerning the reports in question; on the point covered by subparagraph 3 (c) (xii), relating to agenda item 76, which he regarded as a matter calling for a general policy decision, he would rather have it discussed when the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System came up for consideration. On subparagraph 3 (c) (ii), relating to the same item, he recalled that his delegation had proposed at the twenty-fifth session that consideration of that question be deferred until the current session, and he urged the necessity, in order to expedite the Committee's work, of being supplied with additional material, particularly with regard to UNIDO's and UNCTAD's staff, programme, equipment, publications and related expenses in the field of information, and to UNDP's information activities, as well as details of the decisions adopted at the twelfth session of UNDP's Governing Council held in Chile in June 1971. Particulars concerning the Centre for Economic and Social Information, covering, *inter alia*, the employment of consultants, the Centre's publication programme and related expenses, and staff travel, would also be needed. Lastly, the Committee members should be given a detailed inventory of all the equipment used by the Office of Public Information. That documentation provided in advance, would facilitate the deliberations of the Committee and enable it to advise the General Assembly in a more effective manner.

21. He proposed that consideration of agenda item 84 relating to personnel questions be deferred until the twenty-seventh session, when the Committee would have before it the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and other relevant reports.

22. The CHAIRMAN, replying to the points raised by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and referring alike to document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.1, informed the Committee that a document concerning the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (subparagraph 9 (ii), relating to agenda item 82) would be published shortly. He also announced that the Secretary-General had prepared a report on the question of staff training—subparagraph 3 (xii) (c), relating to item 76—which would be transmitted to the Committee in the early future and provide the answers to certain questions. As to the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities—subparagraph 3 (c) (ii)—the points raised by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania would be passed on to the Office of Public Information. It would be useful to have them submitted in writing. As to agenda item 84 relating to personnel questions, the Committee was not yet in a position to rule on the advisability of deferring consideration of it, for it had first to take cognizance of the documentation on the question.

23. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) thanked the Chairman for his explanations. His request for particulars concerning United Nations activities in the information field was, he stressed, an official one to which the Office of Public Information should give an official reply.

24. The CHAIRMAN took careful note of the request of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania but pointed out that it could not be regarded as emanating officially from the Committee itself, since the latter had not yet considered the relevant agenda item. However, it could be submitted to the Office of Public Information as a request designed to assist the Committee in its work.

25. Mr. GUPTA (India) supported the suggestion made earlier by the Brazilian representative. His delegation had already, at the twenty-fifth session, expressed its dissatisfaction regarding deferment of consideration of the report of the Committee on Contributions, whose Chairman had been unable to attend the Fifth Committee on the prescribed date. It considered that the members of the Board of Auditors should make themselves available to the Fifth Committee. He also supported the request of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania concerning the United Nations information activities, inasmuch as the report of the Office of Public Information failed to deal with certain questions and required amplification. He, too, stressed that the request was an official one. The information to be submitted in a Conference Room Paper should also deal with paragraph 53 of the first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget estimates for 1972.

26. Regarding agenda items 83 and 84, he asked whether the Bertrand report on personnel questions had been listed with the other reports of the Joint Inspection Unit and when it would be made available to the Committee. He proposed that, to save time, earlier consideration could be given to the Report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System (A/8428 and Corr.1), which could be dealt with fairly quickly, and to the Secretary-General's report on budget performance of the United Nations for the financial year 1970 (A/8322).

The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its ninth session (E/5038) should also be listed under this heading.

27. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) supported the suggestion of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that consideration of item 84 be deferred until the twenty-seventh session. It was indeed true that the Committee was in no position to take a decision immediately on the subject, but the Secretariat should draw up a list of the documents to be studied in connexion with item 84 so as to enable the Committee to do so, for the Bertrand report still had to be distributed officially, and the very vastness of its scope might well make consideration of it difficult. He endorsed the Indian representative's suggestion that earlier consideration should be given the questions currently featuring as items 1 (b) and 3 (c) (x) in the list of document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.1.

28. The CHAIRMAN took note of the Indian representative's request regarding the Office of Public Information and his suggestion concerning the order in which certain of the agenda items should be examined.

29. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that his Committee had not yet received the Secretary-General's comments on the Bertrand report but had decided to release it without them. The report would accordingly be issued in the very near future. As the Brazilian representative had said, the Bertrand report was very far-ranging. Furthermore, it was complementary to the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System. The Fifth Committee would have to take account of the interconnexion of the various reports before deciding when and under what agenda item the Bertrand report would have to be considered. In reply to the questions raised by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and India, he said that in paragraph 53 of its first report (A/8408) and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972 the Advisory Committee had called for additional information on the Office of Public Information.

30. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Secretariat would publish a list of the documents relating to agenda item 84.

31. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) submitted that the difficulties experienced in drawing up the Committee's programme of work stemmed from the fact that the documentation was not ready. He pointed out in that connexion that the amendment proposed by the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly to Rule 100 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly provided that each Main Committee shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item—an objective which was obviously impossible if the necessary documentation had not been published. He hoped that the documentation would be ready in good time for the twenty-seventh session.

32. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee's decision was to begin its work by dealing with item 74 and the items on which it had the necessary documentation, in line with the Indian representative's suggestion. Concerning item 76, he hoped it would be possible, as the general discussion proceeded, to begin consideration, on first reading, of the various sections of the budget estimates. The intention also, would be to interrupt the general discussion and the first reading examination in order to consider other agenda items as and when the required documents were issued.

33. Apart from the questions set forth in the list published in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.1, the Committee would be required under rule 154 of the rules of procedure, to consider the administrative and budgetary implications which the decisions of the other Main Committees of the General Assembly might have. In view of the practice of asking the Advisory Committee to examine those implications and to report on them, he asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to bear those additional questions in mind when he came to organize that Committee's work.

34. Finally, he drew the Committee's attention to agenda item 79 relating to appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, in connexion with which the Committee would be required to hold several elections. He accordingly requested the delegations to submit nominations without delay so as to enable the Committee to fill vacancies in the various bodies in good time.

35. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee begin its work on 4 October 1971, taking up as its first order of business agenda item 74, relating to the financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970; at the same meeting, the Committee would hold a special election to fill a vacancy in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary

Questions. At following meetings, the Committee would take up agenda item 76, beginning with its general discussion and first reading of sections of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, and consideration of agenda item 80, relating to the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, and agenda item 75 concerning the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971. The Committee would give consideration, at the earliest opportunity, taking into account availability of documentation, to such matters as the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System.

36. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked why the Committee would not meet until 4 October and make an earlier start in its work, during the course of the week, since it had so much to do.

37. The CHAIRMAN explained that it would not be advisable to start before 4 October, since the documentation was not ready and the Secretariat would have to be given time to publish it. Unless the representative of India maintained his objection, the Committee would resume its work on Monday, 4 October.

38. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that, while not wishing to begin the session by raising an objection, he wished to draw attention to the text of the amendment to rule 100 of the rules of procedure, which the representative of Denmark had just read out, and to stress the necessity of the Fifth Committee's beginning its work in good time. His sole concern was that the General Assembly should bear the deliberations of the current meeting in mind when they came to consider the report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 74**

**Financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors (A/8322, A/8350, A/8407/Add.1-5)**

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) wished to comment briefly on the Advisory Committee's report (A/8350).

2. With regard to paragraph 3, he pointed out that the decision taken by the Board of Auditors to discontinue separate management audits, and rather to include any observations on administrative and management questions in its reports on the audit of the accounts, was in keeping with the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

3. The comments made in paragraph 8 regarding the new extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva should be read in conjunction with what the Advisory Committee stated in paragraph 162 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

4. The question of the division of responsibility in keeping the accounts of UNDP, mentioned in paragraph 11, raised the wider question of responsibility for the investment and custody of UNDP funds. That question had not yet been studied sufficiently, and the Advisory Committee had recommended that the Governing Council defer its decision on the matter until its thirteenth session, in January 1972.

5. The statement made in paragraph 16 did not imply that there had been any mismanagement of UNRWA funds; the losses referred to were due to exceptional circumstances, and total normal losses had in fact been distinctly lower in 1970 than in 1969.

*(a) United Nations (A/8350, paras. 1-9)*

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, as the financial report and accounts of the United Nations for 1970 had for technical reasons not yet been distributed, the Fifth Committee would have to consider them at a subsequent meeting.

*(b) United Nations Development Programme (A/8350, paras. 10-12; A/8407/Add.1)*

7. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), supported by Mr. FAURA (Peru), said that the recommendation of the Board of

Auditors regarding the UNDP accounts, referred to in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8350), raised extremely important questions which merited serious consideration. The Administrative Management Service should give speedy consideration to the question, as suggested by the Advisory Committee, in order to assess all the effects of the proposed change.

8. Mr. HENDERSON (Board of Auditors) said that the Board of Auditors felt, as did the Advisory Committee, that the whole situation should be considered by the Administrative Management Service in connexion with its manpower survey of the Accounts Division.

9. Mr. OLVER (Director of the Financial Management Division, United Nations Development Programme) said that the UNDP Administration endorsed the Advisory Committee's suggestion that the Administrative Management Service should study the question and felt it would be a good opportunity to consider the whole question of relations between the United Nations and UNDP with regard to financial matters.

10. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked at what time and under what agenda item delegations would be able to state their views on the question of the custody of UNDP funds.

11. Mr. OLVER (Director of the Financial Management Division, United Nations Development Programme) said that the UNDP Governing Council was to consider the question at its thirteenth session. The General Assembly, for its part, could not take a decision before the Advisory Committee had submitted its recommendations. If the Advisory Committee submitted a report to the Assembly at its current session, the Fifth Committee could consider the question during the same session.

12. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that when the UNDP Governing Council had decided at its twelfth session to defer consideration of the question of the custody and investment of UNDP funds until its thirteenth session, it had been understood that the Advisory Committee would receive a report with additional information from the administration of UNDP, and that the Advisory Committee would itself prepare a report on the question which the Fifth Committee could then consider. If the Fifth Committee now decided that the Administrative Management Service should study the whole situation, it was unlikely that the Fifth Committee would be able to take up the question at the current session.

13. Mr. GUPTA (India) felt that the question of UNDP accounts was a purely technical and administrative one, whereas that of the transfer of responsibilities for the

investment and custody of UNDP funds, which entailed changes in the financial regulations of UNDP, was a general policy question. A clear distinction should be made between those two questions, and the survey by the Administrative Management Service should deal only with the first.

14. In document DP/L.174,<sup>1</sup> the Administrator had recommended to the Governing Council at its twelfth session that it confer on him direct custodial and investment responsibilities for UNDP funds, and that the financial regulations should be revised accordingly. He had justified that recommendation by reference to paragraphs 37 and 56 of the Governing Council consensus and which appeared in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV). The Secretary-General had endorsed the Administrator's recommendation, but the Advisory Committee apparently had some reservations regarding that proposal; in paragraph 7 of document DP/L.174/Add.1<sup>2</sup> it had wisely recommended that the Governing Council not take any decision on the question at its twelfth session so that the General Assembly would have time to consider it; while not convinced of the soundness of the argument adduced by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of that document, his delegation also believed, but for other reasons, that no decision could be taken at the present stage. It was clearly stated in paragraph 30 of the consensus that:

“... The Secretary-General will continue as custodian of Programme funds, but decisions regarding the Programme investment portfolio... will be reached in agreement with the Administrator, subject to a full report on this arrangement and review by the Governing Council at its twelfth session”.

15. Even under present arrangements, though the Secretary-General was responsible for the investment of UNDP funds, investment policies were determined in consultation with the Administrator and his staff. Thus, the consensus required no change in present arrangements, under which the Administrator was fully involved. Furthermore, the financial situation of the Organization being what it was, it was desirable that the Secretary-General continue to have the custody of UNDP funds. Finally, his delegation believed that it was important to preserve links between UNDP and the United Nations, which unfortunately were becoming weaker.

16. Perhaps it would be desirable at some future stage to transfer the custody and the responsibility for investment of UNDP funds to the Administrator, but that decision should be taken only after the financial situation of the United Nations had improved. At the present stage, all that was required was the formalization of the existing situation whereby the Administrator was fully involved in investment policy-making, and that could easily be done under the terms of paragraph 30 of the consensus.

17. His delegation wished to know the views of other delegations in that regard and reserved the right to submit a proposal under the appropriate agenda item.

18. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the issues were very complex; they should be studied in detail and might almost be the subject of a separate agenda item and separate reports, to enable the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly to take decisions in full knowledge of the facts. At the present stage, they were unable to adopt the appropriate decisions. Furthermore, he wished to know whether it would be less costly for UNDP to manage its own portfolio.

19. Mr. OLVER (Director of the Financial Management Division, United Nations Development Programme) answered in the affirmative, adding that it would be less costly if UNDP established and maintained all the accounts, financial records and statements of its funds itself; however, the Fifth Committee should also take into account the consequences that implementation of the recommendation would have for the United Nations.

20. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) agreed with the representatives of India and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Fifth Committee should not take any action on the question as a whole until it had the findings of the survey soon to be undertaken by the Administrative Management Service.

21. Mr. PICK (Canada) asked whether, since the recommendations made in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report would have very many implications, the Controller might like to comment on the subject.

22. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that no general statement could be made before all of the recommendation's implications had been carefully examined. The exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the Administrator had perhaps been premature. The observations made by the representatives of India and the United Republic of Tanzania were quite pertinent. As for the accounts, financial records and statements concerning UNDP funds, it would be better to wait for the report of the Administrative Management Service. The question of custody of funds raised a very important problem of general policy; he appreciated the fact that the delegations which had studied the question had expressed their preliminary views, but to continue the discussion at that stage would serve no useful purpose.

23. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution which he read out.

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection.*<sup>3</sup>

(c) **United Nations Children's Fund (A/8350, para. 13; A/8407/Add.2)**

24. Mr. HEYWARD (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund) wished to comment briefly on a number of paragraphs in the report of the Board of Auditors (A/8407/Add.2, part I, B).

25. With respect to the observations of the Board of Auditors in paragraph 3 of the report concerning the

<sup>3</sup> Text subsequently adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 2759 B (XXVI)).

<sup>1</sup> Mimeographed document of 22 April 1971.

<sup>2</sup> *Idem*, 20 July 1971.

inclusion in income of UNICEF trust funds for specific projects and the recommendation that they should be reported in a separate statement of status of funds-in-trust and special accounts, he explained that \$5 million or 8 per cent of income consisted of contributions for trust funds for specific projects and the total volume of the trust funds would probably increase in the coming years. Those funds like the rest of UNICEF income became UNICEF assistance; however, he proposed to follow the recommendations of the Board of Auditors with regard to the presentation of accounts for 1971 and future years.

26. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 4 it seemed, from the discussions between UNICEF and the Controller-General of Colombia, that the Board of Auditors was advising UNICEF to establish a new basic relationship with National Committees and to ask them to remit funds collected at earlier dates during the year. It did not seem advisable to renegotiate the agreements that had been concluded with the large majority of National Committees; consequently, the recommendation could not be carried out.

27. The advice in paragraph 5 concerning the presentation of the administrative budget in 1972, which would be reflected in the accounts of 1973, would be followed.

28. The management of UNICEF would study the possibility of further decentralizing its divisional functions as the Board had recommended in paragraph 6.

29. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 7, he pointed out that responsibility for the use of vehicles supplied by UNICEF to Governments for programme assistance fell on the Ministry with which UNICEF was co-operating and had concluded a loan agreement. UNICEF assisted the Ministries in setting up organizations for the maintenance and control of vehicles.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that, as there appeared to be no comments from members on the financial report and accounts of UNICEF, he suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution which he read out.

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection.*<sup>4</sup>

(d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/8350, paras. 14-16; A/8407/Add.3)

31. The CHAIRMAN said that since no one had any comments to make, he suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution which he read out.

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection.*<sup>5</sup>

(e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/8350, para. 17; A/8407/Add.4)

32. The CHAIRMAN, observing that no one appeared to have comments, suggested that the Fifth Committee should

recommend that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution which he read out.

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection.*<sup>6</sup>

(f) Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/8350, paras. 18 and 19; A/8407/Add.5)

33. The CHAIRMAN said that since no one had any comments, he suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution which he read out.

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection.*<sup>7</sup>

## AGENDA ITEM 79

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

(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8351, A/C.5/1369)

34. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Government of Iraq had nominated Mr. Mohamed Alwan for election to the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Mr. Salim A. Saleem (see A/8351, para. 6, and A/C.5/1369).

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. de Prat Gay (Argentina) and Mr. Brown (Australia) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	78
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	76
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	74
Required majority:	38

*Number of votes obtained:*

Mr. Alwan . . . . .	73
One other person . . . . .	1

*Mr. Mohamed Alwan (Iraq) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended his appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the unexpired portion of Mr. Saleem's term.*

35. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should report directly to the General Assembly on that matter.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.*

<sup>4</sup> *Idem* (resolution 2759 C (XXVI)).

<sup>5</sup> *Idem* (resolution 2759 D (XXVI)).

<sup>6</sup> *Idem* (resolution 2759 E (XXVI)).

<sup>7</sup> *Idem* (resolution 2759 F (XXVI)).





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, E/5038)**

*General discussion*

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Secretary-General to initiate the general discussion on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

2. The SECRETARY-GENERAL made a statement.<sup>1</sup>

3. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) made a statement.<sup>1</sup>

4. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the text of the statements by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should be made available as Fifth Committee documents.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1</sup>

**AGENDA ITEM 74**

**Financial reports and accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors (continued) (A/8322, A/8350, A/8407 and Add.1-5):**

**(a) United Nations (continued) (A/8350, paras. 1-9; A/8407)**

5. The CHAIRMAN explained that the Chairman of the Board of Auditors was unable to attend the meeting. Members' questions would be referred to him and answered at a later meeting.

6. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that in its report (A/8407, part II), the Board of Auditors had cited several instances in which failure to observe the Financial Rules and Regulations or to abide by prescribed operational procedures had involved the Organization in unnecessary expenditure. His delegation would be interested to learn why the contracts referred to in paragraph 23 and 26 of the report had been awarded to firms other than the lowest

<sup>1</sup> The complete text of the Secretary-General's statement was subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/1376, and that of the statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee as document A/C.5/1377.

bidder; it appeared that the Administration's explanations in those cases had failed to satisfy the Board of Auditors.

7. Reference to paragraph 202 of the first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, paragraph 6 of its report (A/8350) on the financial reports and accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors, and paragraphs 36 to 40 of the report of the Board of Auditors showed that there had been cases in which considerable extra expenditure on the printing of documents had been incurred because of the failure of substantive departments to submit manuscripts within the prescribed time schedule. The Secretariat should explain the reasons for that administrative deficiency.

8. It appeared from paragraph 64 of the report of the Board of Auditors that, although in its 1969 report<sup>2</sup> the Board had drawn the Administration's attention to administrative, internal control and accounting weaknesses in the recording of transactions and maintenance of proper records relating to the extension of conference facilities at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, those weaknesses continued to exist. The Administration's failure to take adequate remedial action prompted the fear that in the Palais des Nations project the Organization would witness a repetition of the situation which had arisen in the ECLA building project where final costs had been five times greater than estimated costs.

9. The failure of the Office of Technical Co-operation to follow prescribed operational procedures was a matter of particular concern to the developing countries. The Secretariat should provide explanations of the cases mentioned in paragraph 56 of the report of the Board of Auditors and, in particular, indicate why fellowships had been awarded to candidates wishing to pursue academic studies rather than to persons wishing to broaden their professional knowledge and operational experience.

10. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that his delegation greatly appreciated the work of the Board of Auditors and had every reason to retain the utmost confidence in the Board. The Board's comments, particularly those on the management services, were very interesting and it was to be hoped that the Secretariat would take the necessary follow-up action on them. In future reports, the Board should indicate what action had been taken on its comments.

11. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), referring to the Colombian representa-

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7, part II, para. 34.*

tive's comments on the granting of contracts, said that there were no fundamental differences of opinion on the matter between the Board of Auditors and the Administration. In some cases, however, the judgement of the Board differed from that of the Administration. It had always been, and would continue to be, the Secretary-General's policy that contracts should be awarded to firms other than the lowest bidder only when such action was dictated by the exigencies of the situation. In the cases mentioned by the Board, the Secretary-General had felt that the action had been in the best interests of the Organization. Furthermore, that action had been fully in accord with the provisions in the Financial Rules which stipulated that contracts were to be awarded, not to the lowest bidder, but to the lowest acceptable bidder. The Secretary-General's decisions had not been taken lightly; the appropriate technical and substantive personnel had always been consulted and the advice of a special advisory panel and of the Committee on Contracts obtained. The Administration maintained the closest co-operation with the Board of Auditors and gave careful consideration to its comments. The complications facing a body like the United Nations in the matter of the granting of contracts should not be overlooked: there were language difficulties, difficulties occasioned by the fact that the bidding had to be open to as many countries as possible and difficulties caused by differences in national presentation practices. The Administration had made every effort to provide the Board with satisfactory answers to its questions and was proud of the fact that there had been very few instances in which excessive expenditure had been incurred when it could have been avoided.

12. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) pointed out that in the case mentioned in paragraph 26 of the Board of Auditors' report, the contract had been awarded to the firm whose proposal was neither the soundest technically nor the least expensive. Obviously, the question of language might give rise to difficulties in the allocation of printing contracts, but according to paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report, considerable extra expenditure had been incurred because of the failure of substantive departments to submit manuscripts in time. That was an administrative deficiency.

13. Mr. ANDERSEN (Director of the Office of Technical Co-operation) conceded that the Colombian representative's criticism of the manner in which fellowships had been awarded was valid. The Office had given in to pressure from a Government which had wanted fellowships awarded to its candidates for the pursuit of academic studies. The rules under which the Office worked were perhaps not the best possible rules. In the case of the least developed of the developing countries, in particular, much more flexibility in the application of existing rules was necessary. In some countries, there was such a dearth of qualified personnel that it should be possible for the Organization to grant fellowships to undergraduates in economics who, on return to their countries, would receive further training from experts and thus be able to take over planning duties. The matter had been taken up with UNDP. The laxity in following operational procedures to which the Board of Auditors had drawn attention could not, however, be condoned.

14. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that to the greatest extent possible and practicable, and with due regard to the

dictates of economy, the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the recording of transactions and maintenance of proper records relating to the extension of conference facilities at the Palais des Nations had been put into effect. A former Belgian auditor who had been associated with the Board of Auditors and who had extensive and specialized experience in the accounts of major construction projects in Europe had been assigned on a more or less full-time basis to ensure the necessary financial control. The Board of Auditors had perhaps unwittingly exaggerated the situation, but the Administration had made it clear that it was always willing to discuss the question.

15. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services for his explanations. He was aware that the Board of Auditors might not always fully appreciate the political element involved in the awarding of contracts. Nevertheless, in its report, the Board did indicate that there were areas in which there was a need for tighter administrative procedures and managerial leadership. It would seem, for instance, that the Committee on Contracts should have exerted greater control in the case referred to in paragraph 23 of the Board's report. Furthermore, surely it was not in accordance with the Financial Rules to pay a contractor more to speed up his work, as had been stated in paragraph 69 of the report. It would be interesting to know whether there had been previous instances of the case referred to in paragraph 99. In the opinion of his delegation, whereas the situation revealed by the Board of Auditors did not indicate a downward trend in the financial management of the Organization, it did indicate that there was a need for greater care to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

16. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the interpretation of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania of paragraph 69 of the report was not entirely accurate. The additional funds had been approved in order to compensate the contractor for extra costs. Although work had not been completed by the new contracting date in December 1970, the additional expenditure had permitted completion before the date set in the original contract, which had made other economies possible.

17. He was not aware of any other instance of "kick-backs" than the one referred to in paragraph 99. The staff member involved in that case had been summarily dismissed.

18. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wished to remind the Committee that when the budget estimates for 1971 were being discussed, his delegation had objected to including appropriations for such items as bonds relating to the United Nations Operation in the Congo, the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea. He wished to reaffirm his delegation's opposition to those expenditure items. They were in violation of the Charter, and the Soviet Union would continue to vote against them.

19. He also wished to reaffirm his delegation's opposition to the financing of technical assistance from the United

Nations regular budget. Under Article 17 of the Charter, the budget was purely administrative, and was not designed for technical assistance, which was an entirely voluntary matter.

20. He was in general agreement with the observations of the Advisory Committee, and he had no objection to approving the report of the Board of Auditors.

21. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that, in view of the financial crisis facing the United Nations, hard and practical decisions would have to be taken in order to achieve long-term stability. As a member of the United States House of Representatives, he wished to emphasize the concern of many of his colleagues in the Congress at the spiralling United Nations deficit.

22. It was encouraging to learn from the statements made at the previous meeting by the representative of the Board of Auditors and of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that consultations between the two bodies had substantially improved by comparison with previous years. He urged that further in-depth discussions should be held in future years.

23. His delegation was particularly interested in obtaining information from the Secretariat on the action it was taking to ensure that the irregularities discussed in the report of the Board of Auditors were corrected. It also wished to be advised of the means available to the Secretary-General to report such action to the Board. As specific examples, he wished to know what steps had been taken, in connexion with paragraphs 7-9 of the report of the Board of Auditors, to ensure that the Board received annual accounts from the Secretary-General more promptly, how the laxity in financial and administrative control procedures discussed in paragraph 57 had been corrected and what action had been taken to strengthen management and accounting control, as recommended in paragraphs 59-64. The thorough audit performed by the Board would be of little real value unless meaningful action was taken to follow through on its findings and recommendations.

24. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) congratulated the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee for their work in preparing the reports. He wished to join the representatives of Colombia and the United States in requesting information on the action taken to correct the reported inadequacies in financial management. In view of the perilous financial situation of the United Nations, it was essential that such errors or omissions should not recur.

25. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said he also wished to emphasize that laxities should be prevented in the future. He agreed with the representative of Australia that the Board of Auditors should indicate to what extent its recommendations had been implemented. It would be useful to hear the views of the Board's Chairman on that point. It was his impression that the Board was not entirely satisfied.

26. The CHAIRMAN informed the representative of Pakistan that the Chairman of the Board of Auditors would not be available until 13 October.

27. He read out the text of the usual draft resolution accepting the report of the Board of Auditors and concurring in the observations relating to it made by the Advisory Committee.

28. Mr. GUPTA (India) said he agreed that the Board of Auditors should include in its report a section on how its recommendations had been implemented. Otherwise, the report would merely be a ritualistic exercise.

29. He felt that the Fifth Committee's practice of drafting the usual resolution was inadequate and that more forceful action was needed. He asked the Secretariat to give a brief oral report on what it was doing to ensure implementation of the Board's recommendations.

30. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said he wished to reiterate the opposition of his delegation, which it had also expressed during the discussions on the 1971 budget estimates, to appropriations for bond issues relating to operations in the Congo, for the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea. Those items should be eliminated from the budget because they violated the Charter and would only aggravate the financial situation of the United Nations.

31. Mr. TURNER (Controller), in reply to the United States representative, said that late closing of the United Nations year-end accounts was a chronic problem. Some years were better than others, and the current year was not one of the best. The chief cause of the problem was the heavy year-end workload, which could not easily be handled by a staff that was barely adequate for year-round operations. For example, although the workload in December 1970 had been 20 per cent larger than in December 1969, the staff increases of past years had not added staff to essential administrative services. Other causes of the problem were late submissions by field officers—especially UNDP Resident Representatives—and recent computer problems. The latter were not chronic and could probably be solved in 1972. The Secretariat would do its best to correct the situation, but the Committee would have to recognize that some of the difficulties were likely to continue unless there was at least a modest strengthening of the administrative staff; perhaps the Secretariat had been too reluctant to press for the necessary increases.

32. He felt that the Board of Auditors already regarded follow-up of its recommendations as one of its most essential functions. The Board expected to receive information on what action had been taken, and if it was dissatisfied with the written replies, it could cross-question the Secretariat officials concerned. If the Board found few inadequacies in follow-up, perhaps that meant that it was satisfied on the whole that the proper corrective measures had been taken.

33. The questions concerning printing contracts could more appropriately be answered by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services when the Fifth Committee, in the course of its consideration of agenda item 76, took up section 11 of the budget estimates for 1972.

34. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, having regard to the Indian representative's comments, an operative paragraph

should be added to the customary draft resolution, which would read:

“3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take such remedial action as may be required by the comments of the Board of Auditors.”

35. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) proposed that the words “in the light of the discussion in the Fifth Committee” should be inserted after “the Secretary-General” in the proposed paragraph.

36. Mr. TURNER (Controller), referring to the proposed new paragraph, wished to record the view that no three individuals could be infallible and that once in a while it would be open to the Office of the Controller to disagree with the conclusions of the Board of Auditors.

37. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that as there had been insufficient time to consider thoroughly the proposed new paragraph, his delegation would prefer that the Committee should confine itself to adopting the customary draft resolution.

38. Mr. GUPTA (India) could not understand why the proposed paragraph should cause any difficulty. It would not compromise the position of the Controller, the Board of Auditors or any Member State. It merely added substance to an otherwise meaningless draft resolution.

39. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) suggested that, to allow delegations time to consider the text, the draft resolution should be taken up in connexion with the appropriate section of the budget estimates.

40. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) pointed out that paragraph 2 of the draft resolution began with the word “*concur*” as opposed to “*takes note*”. The indication of concurrence in the observations of the Advisory Committee should be sufficient for the purposes envisaged by advocates of the proposed paragraph 3. It covered all points raised, including the question of follow-up action and consequently a new paragraph might not be necessary.

41. Mr. GUPTA (India) could not agree with the Brazilian representative’s interpretation of the word “*concur*”. The representative of Colombia had asked searching questions regarding various bald statements in the documents and the representative of Pakistan had rightly indicated that the views expressed during the current discussion should be taken into account. There was a clear need, therefore, for the proposed additional paragraph.

42. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that, in view of the comments by previous speakers regarding the need to correct shortcomings to which the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee had drawn attention, it was logical that the paragraph proposed by the Chairman, as amended by the representative of Pakistan, should be added to the customary draft resolution.

43. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the proposed text of the draft resolution should be circulated with a view to a final decision at the Committee’s next meeting.

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 80

### Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (A/8397 and Add.1, A/8411 and Add.1)

44. Mr. Amjad ALI (Chairman of the Committee on Contributions) introduced the report of that body (A/8411 and Add.1).

45. The Committee on Contributions had recommended rates of assessment for Fiji, admitted to membership at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and for Bhutan. Where the assessment of a new Member State had not been considered at the annual session of the Committee on Contributions, it was customary to refer the matter to the following annual session. The Fifth Committee might wish that procedure to be followed again.

46. Certain countries had suffered serious natural disasters after the current scale of assessment had been drawn up. The Committee on Contributions had considered economic and statistical data and other information submitted by the Governments of Romania and Pakistan in support of appeals made for changes in their assessments in the light of those disasters. It had recognized the magnitude of the calamities and had been keenly aware of the immediate and substantial emergency aid required for relief and reconstruction in countries whose economies had been severely impaired by natural disasters. In that connexion, he drew attention to the measures suggested by the General Assembly in its resolution 2717 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 with a view to meeting requests for aid from Member States stricken by major natural disasters. Given the magnitude of the disasters and their immediate effect on the capacity to pay of the countries concerned, the Committee on Contributions had considered the possibility of making small downward adjustments in assessments in response to the appeals, particularly as such adjustments could be offset by the contributions of new Members—thereby avoiding the necessity of revising the established scale. In arriving at its final recommendations, the Committee on Contributions had recognized that, during the three-year period of a scale, many events might occur which would affect the relative capacities to pay of Member States. In the next review of the scale in 1973, to be based on national income statistics for the years 1969-1971, the Committee on Contributions would have an opportunity of making special allowance, as in the past, for the serious economic effects of natural disasters which had occurred during the three-year interval. The Committee on Contributions had also had to consider that, in the absence of new Members, it might not in future be able to grant relief without reopening the scale. The Committee on Contributions had given very serious, detailed and sympathetic consideration to the two appeals before it. Having in mind that token adjustments could not provide any significant relief to the countries concerned and that other sources of aid were available from within the United Nations system, it had finally reached the conclusion that it could not, in response to the two appeals, recommend any revisions in the scale as adopted by the General Assembly.

47. At its thirty-first session, the Committee on Contributions had also taken the opportunity to examine the

possibility of further improving its methods for the establishment of the scale. The Committee had given particular attention to: (a) the implication of changes in price levels and exchange rates in the determination of the relative capacities to pay of Member States; (b) the possibility of taking into account in a more systematic way the factor of the ability of Members to secure foreign currency, and (c) the effects on the scale of possible variations in the allowance for low *per capita* income. The Committee on Contributions had requested the Secretariat to prepare further statistical data and studies on those subjects for its thirty-second session. At that time, in advance of the general review of the scale in 1973, the Committee would continue to review the implementation of the principles governing its work in the light of the views expressed by delegations during the Fifth Committee's debate of the scale during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

48. Other matters considered by the Committee on Contributions had included the collection of contributions and the payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars.

49. He drew attention to document A/8411/Add.1 which dealt with the status of Member States under Article 19 of

the Charter. In that context, he referred to the Secretary-General's letters of 21 and 23 September 1971 to the President of the General Assembly (A/8397 and Add.1) and to the related statements in the General Assembly by the temporary President at the 1934th plenary meeting and by the President of the 1940th plenary meeting.

50. In connexion with paragraph 24 of the Committee's report he recalled that, early in 1971, the Secretary-General had informed Member States concerning the non-United States currencies in which payment of contributions could be accepted by the United Nations. When the Organization's needs for a currency in which several Member States wished to pay had been less than the assessed contribution of the Member State whose currency it had been, the latter had been given priority for payment in its own currency of the total amount required by the United Nations. Payments from other Member States in a given currency were accepted only when the needs of the Organization in that currency exceeded the contribution of the Member State whose currency it was, or when the Member State itself had expressed no interest in paying in its own currency.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 80

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (*continued*) (A/8397 and Add.1, A/8411 and Add.1)

1. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) congratulated the Committee on Contributions on its report (A/8411 and Add.1). Referring to paragraphs 10 to 15 of document A/8411, he said that he was surprised nevertheless to note that, contrary to expectations, the Committee on Contributions had not favourably considered the appeals for changes in assessments submitted by the Governments of Romania and Pakistan. His delegation agreed with those members of the Committee on Contributions who had felt that, on account of the magnitude of the disasters which had devastated those countries, the Committee could at that stage have responded to their appeals by granting small downward adjustments in their assessments. Such adjustments would not, of course, have constituted any real relief, but in granting them the Committee on Contributions would have acknowledged that those countries' capacity to pay had been affected and would thus have reaffirmed the principle that relative capacity to pay was the overriding factor in determining the scale of contributions. Such downward adjustments would not, moreover, have brought about any unwelcome repercussions, for the admission of new Member States had afforded the opportunity to review the rates of the two countries in question without altering the scale already approved by the General Assembly.

2. With regard to the payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars discussed in paragraph 24, the members of the Committee on Contributions had taken note of the Secretary-General's arrangements for payment of a portion of the contributions for 1971 in currencies other than United States dollars, in accordance with the recommendation of the Fifth Committee at the twenty-fifth session, but had expressed divergent views on application of the recommendation—in other words, on the true meaning of the word "priority". In his opinion, the directive of the Fifth Committee could not be clearer and the priority it spoke of was not limited or qualified in any way: it was a total priority and, as such, could not be scaled down to payments of "substantial proportions" of the contribution. In that connexion, he agreed with those members of the Committee on Contributions who had considered that a Member State should be entitled to pay up to its total contribution in its own

currency if the needs of the Organization in that currency so allowed.

3. His delegation attached the greatest importance to revision of the low *per capita* income allowance formula mentioned in paragraph 22 of the report, and he awaited with interest the conclusions to be submitted by the Committee on Contributions in 1972 following its examination. Like the majority of representatives who had spoken in the debate on that item at the twenty-fifth session, he was convinced that changes in the world economic situation made it imperative that the allowance formula should be brought up to date. An outmoded formula still based on figures dating back to 1945 could not but lead to an inequitable apportionment of the expenses of the Organization among its Members and, owing to their special economic and financial problems, the developing countries would be the first to suffer. He hoped that the Committee on Contributions would revise the allowance formula so as to adjust it to the changing world economic situation.

4. In conclusion, he welcomed the intention of the Committee on Contributions to keep under review the practices and implementation of the principles governing its work and to study the possibility of further improving methods for the establishment of the scale. He was sure that the documentation which the Committee on Contributions had requested the Secretariat to prepare to that end would be very useful. He was particularly happy to see that the documentation requested included further data on the implications of changes in price levels and exchange rates for the determination of relative capacities to pay of Member States, as well as data on the servicing and amortization of the external debts of Member States. He hoped that the Committee on Contributions would continue to pay special attention to those two problems and to take account, in establishing the scale of contributions, of noticeable differential changes in price levels in relation to exchange rates. While it appreciated the difficulties of formulating a systematic and reliable method for making allowances for the ability of Member States to secure foreign currency, his delegation endorsed the Committee's intention to continue to use, in its next review, available data on the servicing and amortization of the external debts of Member States in making small downward adjustments in individual assessments.

5. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that he had read the report of the Committee on Contributions with interest and was gratified that Fiji and Bhutan, countries with limited resources, had been assessed at the minimum rate of 0.04 per cent. It was regrettable, however, that the Committee on Contributions had not found it possible to make downward adjustments in the assessments of Romania and Pakistan which had been afflicted by natural disasters. The

argument that such a reduction would not have provided significant relief to the countries concerned was not persuasive. Even a slight downward adjustment would have provided them with proof of the international community's concern.

6. As representative of a country which, like most developing countries, was obliged to use a significant portion of its foreign exchange on the servicing and amortization of external debts, he was happy to note that the Committee on Contributions would continue to take account of that factor in future revisions of the scale of contributions. At the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had pointed out that in most developing countries part of the rural population lived outside the money zone. Accordingly, in the absence of sophisticated machinery to determine with accuracy the *per capita* income of such rural populations, the Committee on Contributions should exercise great caution in working out the assessments of the countries concerned. Ghana therefore welcomed the Committee's decision to revise the different elements of the low *per capita* income allowance formula so as to adjust it to the changing world economic situation.

7. Turning to the question of the payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars, he pointed out that there had been a great change in the world situation since General Assembly resolution 2654 (XXV) had been adopted on 4 December 1970. With the present currency crisis, the revaluation of certain currencies and the strain on the dollar, the time had perhaps come for the Committee on Contributions to modify its policy and accept a larger proportion of contributions in strong currencies other than the dollar.

8. Mr. YOGASUNDRAM (Ceylon) commended the Committee on Contributions on its impartiality and its clear, lucid report. Notwithstanding his sympathy for the circumstances of countries which had suffered natural disasters, he endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 15 of the Committee's report for the reasons indicated in paragraph 13, namely, that any adjustment in the scale could not offer any significant relief to the countries affected and that the effects of the disasters would in any case be reflected in the triennial review of the scale in 1973.

9. At the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had expressed satisfaction that the Committee on Contributions intended to keep under review the practices and implementation of the principles governing its work and hoped that the review would lead to further improvement in the methods for the establishment of the scale.

10. With regard to paragraph 24 of the report, he was concerned to note that the Fifth Committee's recommendation appeared to have been misinterpreted by some members of the Committee on Contributions who were of the opinion that the payment of contributions in currencies other than the United States dollar should not be a special privilege reserved for countries whose national currency they were, but should also be available to other Member States which would consequently have the possibility of paying part of the amount required in the currency in question, thereby obliging States to pay only a "substantial portion" of their contributions in their own currency. His

delegation considered that priority for payments in currencies other than the United States dollar should be given to countries whose currency they were and that the latter should be entitled to pay the total amount of their contributions in their own currencies, provided that the amount did not exceed the needs of the Organization. It supported, therefore, the former of the two views outlined in paragraph 24 and hoped that the Committee on Contributions would ultimately accept it.

11. Mr. VANDER GOOT (Netherlands) expressed approval of the report of the Committee on Contributions and noted with satisfaction that it intended to study the possibility of further improving methods for the establishment of the scale. He was further gratified to note that the Committee intended to give particular attention to the effect of noticeable differential changes in price levels which were not reflected in exchange rates in the case of certain countries and awaited the outcome of the study with interest.

12. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) asked for the views of the Secretariat on the question of the collection of contributions paid in currencies other than the United States dollar.

13. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that, in the view of the Secretariat, the priority referred to in the Fifth Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly was absolute. However, it did not appear that that view was shared by all Governments or by all members of the Committee on Contributions. The issue was important because the Organization's needs in currencies other than the United States dollar were limited and the United Nations could not accept contributions in currencies which it would be unable to use.

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, E/5038)

#### *General discussion (continued)*

14. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) thanked the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for their statements at the previous meeting.

15. As the Fifth Committee began its discussion of the budget estimates for 1972, it could not escape the fact that the financial crisis of the Organization had worsened during the past year. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in the introduction (A/8401/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 119) to his report on the work of the Organization, the deterioration of the Organization's finances had been continuing "to the point at which hard and unpalatable decisions could no longer be responsibly postponed". The picture which the Secretary-General had drawn of the Organization's financial situation could not leave any doubts as to the gravity of the situation which the membership of the United Nations must overcome if the Organization was to continue to discharge its role in the maintenance of peace and interna-

tional security and in the promotion of the social and economic development of all peoples. He was glad that all hope did not yet seem to be lost. At the request of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hambro, President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, had been working towards a comprehensive solution of the problem which would involve liquidation of the current deficit, liquidation of the unamortized portion of the bonds issued by the United Nations and an acceptable settlement of questions connected with parts of the regular budget which had been the target of controversy. Mr. Hambro had informed the General Assembly on 21 September 1971 (1934th plenary meeting) that negotiations were being pursued actively. His Government wished Mr. Hambro every success in his mission.

16. It was understood that any eventual solution to the financial problems of the Organization would be adopted without prejudice to questions of political or legal principle. The Organization's current difficulties were due, in large measure, to the controversy over past peace-keeping operations and their financial implications for Member States. However, even those countries which had withheld payments to the special accounts and to the regular budget because of their stand on peace-keeping operations might perhaps allow at the current juncture that the operations had, after all, played a beneficial role in the development of world affairs. Moreover, rather than looking back towards the past, those States might join in the efforts to restore the solvency of the Organization. At stake were the prestige, the capabilities and, indeed, the survival of the United Nations—which was in the interest of all. He cited the example of the attitude of his own country, which, although it had reservations with regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and had refrained from becoming a party to it, nevertheless contributed to the budget of the IAEA, which included appropriations to finance the system of safeguards provided for in article III of that Treaty. By the same token, although his country did not agree with the procedure of financing the United Nations bond issue through the regular budget, it had not failed to pay its yearly quota in full under that budget.

17. He hoped that all parties concerned would display the same spirit of co-operation with regard to Mr. Hambro's efforts to solve the financial difficulties of the Organization.

18. In the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), the Secretary-General had forecast a gross expenditure of \$207,721,500, presenting an 8.1 per cent increase over the gross appropriation approved for the current financial year. It was likely that additional and revised estimates might bring that expenditure up to approximately \$215 million, some 12 per cent above the 1971 level. Yet almost the whole of the increase was due, not to a real expansion of activities but rather to factors over which the Secretary-General had no control, such as the rise in the cost of goods and services, higher salaries for staff members and construction and maintenance of facilities. It was an increase in money terms and not one in real terms because it was not accompanied by a comparable growth in the activities of the United Nations. The meagre share—approximately \$1.5 million—of the increase which

would finance new activities or expand existing ones could hardly be said to respond to the need, stressed in General Assembly resolution 2748 (XXV), for a suitable growth in such activities as a consequence of the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

19. His delegation was prepared to concur in the initial budget proposals of the Secretary-General, subject to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee which reduced them by \$2,403,200. At the same time, it wished to reiterate its approach to budgetary matters: first, it considered that the United Nations and its family of organizations should be provided with the resources which they required in order to continue their present activities in a more effective way and to undertake new activities to benefit the world community as a whole, particularly the developing countries; secondly, it believed that a sensible balance must be maintained between the needs of States Members and their capacity to provide the Organization with the means to meet the demands placed upon it. That balance must not rely on ceilings or rates of growth but on budgetary discipline, co-ordination, planning, the establishment of priorities and, above all, restraint and common sense.

20. The figures submitted by the Secretary-General under section 4—relating to revenue-producing activities—showed a drop of more than \$1 million from the income actually accrued in 1970. The income forecast for 1972 in that section exceeded the 1971 estimate by only some \$200,000. His delegation was aware of the difficulties inherent in increasing income through the development of revenue producing activities and was particularly glad to note that a new activity was planned under chapter V, namely, the issuance of commemorative medals in conjunction with commemorative stamps. He hoped that it would be followed by other ventures of the same nature.

21. The use of electronic data processing equipment was becoming more and more necessary in the United Nations system. The volume and the increasing complexity of the data to be processed made it obvious that computers would have to be used in a co-ordinated way in order to ensure a more rational and more economical utilization of personnel and resources. It was on that understanding that, at the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had supported the establishment of the International Computing Centre at Geneva. It seemed logical to review the computing requirements of the United Nations family in the light of the existence of a large and accessible central facility, namely, the Geneva Centre. Unfortunately, the hopes of the General Assembly had not yet materialized; although the Centre had been in operation since 1 March 1971, no other agency had yet joined with the United Nations, UNDP and WHO in using it. It would be extremely paradoxical if that Centre, which had been established for the sake of rationalization and economy, were to incur more expenditure through its non-use. His delegation associated itself with the Advisory Committee's request to all concerned to review their policies in order that the Centre might become, at an early date, a truly common facility for the United Nations family, as had been envisaged on its establishment.

22. The extension of Headquarters approved in General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) had not proceeded as



scheduled in 1971, and it was quite unlikely that it would be completed in 1973, as originally envisaged. That delay was unwelcome: expenditure on the renting of outside premises remained high and rising construction costs would certainly affect the financial estimates prepared in 1969. His delegation looked forward to the report that the Secretary-General was to present to the General Assembly on the status of the project and hoped that proposals would be submitted to deal with the situation.

23. One of the salient features of the administrative and budgetary life of the United Nations at the current time was the constant concern with control and inspection, on the one hand, and with change and reform of practices and regulations, on the other. While every enterprise must constantly strive to improve its working methods so as to achieve maximum efficiency in its operations, too much zeal could be as harmful as the shortcomings it proposed to correct. It might be wondered whether the United Nations was causing a new type of proliferation—that of control machinery and moves to change and reform.

24. The Secretary-General, in a report submitted at the previous session,<sup>1</sup> had stated that the United Nations already had a very large number of bodies engaged in control, investigation and co-ordination and that the expenses of those organs in 1969 had exceeded \$4,600,000. It was important to ascertain whether all those organs were equally indispensable and whether there was not a certain amount of duplication in their work. The Advisory Committee had recently expressed concern at the problem of the overlapping of activities of the organs having investigatory functions in administrative matters, especially the Advisory Committee, the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit. Moreover, within the Secretariat, a vast manpower survey was being conducted which inevitably involved questions coming within the competence of other organs. It was perhaps still too early to evaluate the results of so many simultaneous activities in the same area but, judging by the size of the co-ordination machinery at the disposal of the United Nations family, there was every reason to expect more satisfactory achievements in one case where co-ordination was required—that of the International Computing Centre at Geneva. That was also true of the wealth of studies and proposals submitted yearly on a wide range of questions. It was not a rare thing to find one single subject dealt with in several reports issued from different sources.

25. The enthusiasm for reform currently found in all fields must not be detrimental to the administrative and managerial stability which must exist so as to ensure the cohesiveness of the Organization and its continued capacity to perform its work effectively. There must be no change for the sake of change, which would be prejudicial to the structure and functions of the Organization; reforms should only be contemplated in relation to the good they might bring about.

26. There were a number of other topics to which he would return in due course, but none of them had the same importance for the Organization as the financial crisis whose solution was the primary task of all Member States.

<sup>1</sup> Document A/7938, relating to agenda item 79 of the twenty-fifth session, issued separately (offset).

27. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), submitting his general observations on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, stressed the need for more rigorous control of expenditure, the simplification of procedures and economical use of the human and financial resources of the Organization. In that connexion, while his delegation accepted and even supported healthy expansion of the budget, it was definitely opposed to any unhealthy growth. It was particularly alarmed by the extremely rapid growth of the budget and the constant increase in staff, both of which might well double again within the next few years. That was why needs had to be carefully estimated and every way explored of meeting the growing needs of the Organization with the existing staff, by encouraging increased productivity.

28. It was a question not only of reducing expenses but of increasing efficiency. The proliferation of bodies, with the overlapping it caused, led to a waste of energies, while the maintenance of programmes which ought to be discontinued caused a sense of frustration among the staff. The increase in efficiency was not proportionate to the increase in staff and the proliferation of services; indeed the contrary was true. The incentives could not be of a material nature only, and all officials must be given a chance to realize that they were participating in the common task of maintaining peace and security and expediting social and economic progress. It was in that spirit that his country had taken so much interest in the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, not only in the recommendations of its second report,<sup>2</sup> respecting procedures, programme-budgeting, planning, controls and evaluation, but also in its first report,<sup>3</sup> which concerned the deficit of the Organization at that time. The situation had grown much worse since then and, in the light of what the Secretary-General had said in the introduction (A/8401/Add.1 and Corr.1, paras. 117-123) to his report on the work of the Organization and of the statements of the outgoing and current Presidents of the General Assembly at the 1934th plenary meeting, his delegation believed that the time had come for those delegations which, by refusing to pay for certain expenses, had made their point clearly, to concern themselves mainly with the present financial situation of the Organization and to help bring it back to solvency. His delegation hoped that the negotiations now taking place on that question would have a favourable outcome.

29. On the other hand, however, he wondered how Member States could be encouraged to make further voluntary contributions if there was laxity in controlling the growth of the budget. His delegation noted with dismay that the estimate for section 3 alone, relating to salaries and wages, amounted to some \$94 million, an increase of more than \$18 million over actual expenses in 1970, and it believed that, even with a sizeable reduction of that fantastic total, a great deal of the expenses proposed for additional needs could be absorbed under section 3. Every increase in staff entailed new office and equipment requirements and the situation and current prices demanded that steps should be taken to prevent the creation of new posts. It was to be hoped that the Administrative Management

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes*, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, document A/6289 and Add.1 and 2.

Service and the Joint Inspection Unit, in co-operation with the Advisory Committee, would be able to restrain the ever-growing expansion of staff.

30. His delegation realized that new responsibilities were constantly being entrusted to the Secretariat by decisions of Member States, but it would like the Fifth Committee to make an even stronger appeal than in the past to the Secretariat to use the utmost restraint. At the same time, all other bodies should be reminded to pay the greatest attention to the financial implications of their decisions and to bear in mind the need for establishing the right priorities.

31. His delegation believed that intelligent management, budgetary discipline, strict control of the use of resources and a proper evaluation of the results obtained were the best means by which they could make progress towards those great accomplishments that the peoples of the world awaited from the United Nations.

#### AGENDA ITEM 74

Financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8350, A/8407 and Add.1-5):

(a) United Nations (*continued*) (A/8350, paras. 1-9; A/8407, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.4)

32. Mr. NAUDY (France) agreed with those delegations which, at the preceding meeting, had advocated close scrutiny of the follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. His delegation approved draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.4 and would stress that it implied no lack of confidence in the Secretariat.

33. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Russian version of paragraph 3 of the draft resolution should be brought into line with the original text.

34. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) said that the reports of the Board of Auditors not only contributed to improving the efficiency of the organizations to which they referred, but also provided Member States with information which was not otherwise readily available, thus helping to strengthen their confidence in United Nations programmes. He was confident that the comments of the Auditors would continue to meet with a timely response.

35. Mr. RICHARDSON (Liberia) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution before the Committee and expressed its thanks to the Board of Auditors and the Secretary-General.

36. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) proposed that the words "to take such remedial action as may be required by" in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution should be replaced by "to take note of". That wording was sufficient to allow the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures.

37. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) suggested that the word "by", also in paragraph 3, should be replaced by "following".

38. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation was in favour of the draft resolution, with paragraph 3 worded as in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.4. Like the representative of France, he wished to stress that the text did not imply that the Fifth Committee lacked confidence in the Secretariat.

39. Mr. GUPTA (India) requested the representative of the Philippines not to press his amendment.

40. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) withdrew his amendment.

41. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation supported the proposed draft resolution, which accurately reflected the views expressed by members of the Fifth Committee at the previous meeting.

42. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.4 concerning the financial report and accounts of the United Nations for the financial year ended 31 December 1970 and the report of the Board of Auditors, subject to the remarks of the representative of the Soviet Union with regard to the Russian text.

*The draft resolution was adopted without objection.*<sup>4</sup>

#### AGENDA ITEM 79

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (*continued*)\*: (f) United Nations Staff Pension Committee (A/C.5/1373)

43. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the United Kingdom Government had proposed the election of Miss Kathleen Whalley to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for the unexpired portion of Mr. John I. M. Rhodes' term of office (see A/C.5/1373).

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Gajajiva (Thailand) and Mr. Mwamba (Zambia) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	82
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	82
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	79
<i>Required majority:</i>	40

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Miss Whalley . . . . .	79

*Miss Kathleen Whalley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended her appointment as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for the period from the date of the decision in the matter by the General Assembly to 31 December 1973.*

\* Resumed from the 1426th meeting.

<sup>4</sup> Text subsequently adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 2759 A (XXVI)).

### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

44. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation would like the Committee to take up the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (agenda item 75) before proceeding to a first reading of the budget estimates for 1972 (agenda item 76). Furthermore, in view of the Organization's financial situation, he would like to know before the first reading began what austerity measures the Secretary-General intended to introduce for the financial year 1972.

45. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that such a procedure might well delay the work of the Committee, to which the supplementary estimates had not yet been submitted. Moreover, he understood that the Secretary-General would not be in a position to submit the austerity measures he had in mind for some time.

46. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation would not press its proposal if it did not receive the Committee's support, but when the first reading of the budget estimates took place, his delegation would abstain from voting if there had been no consideration of the supplementary estimates by that time.

47. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) suggested that the Committee should adopt the first part of the proposal by the representative of the United States. As to the second part of that proposal, he considered that the Committee should proceed to a first reading of the budget estimates. If the Secretary-General wished to propose additional measures to remedy the critical financial situation of the Organization, he could do so before the Committee began the second reading.

48. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia), while acknowledging the logic of the Chairman's observation, agreed with the representative of the United States that the highest priority should be given to the Organization's financial situation. He wondered whether the proposed procedure would allow the Committee to consider measures for a comprehensive reduction of the budget once the budget estimates had been approved in first reading.

49. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the Committee should take up first the supplementary estimates for 1971, as proposed by the representative of the United States of America, and postpone its decision on the consideration of the budget estimates for 1972.

50. Mr. NAUDY (France) supported the proposal made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

51. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the supplementary estimates would be placed before the Committee early the following week and requested the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to grant the highest priority to consideration of that document so that his report would be ready as soon as possible.

52. Mr. GUPTA (India) thought that the first reading of the budget estimates should proceed without waiting for the Secretary-General to reveal the austerity measures he intended to take.

53. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should continue its work with an examination of the supplementary estimates followed by the first reading of the budget estimates, by which time he hoped that the Secretary-General would have indicated the reductions in expenditure he proposed to make.

*It was so decided.*

54. Mr. GUPTA (India) proposed that, if the Committee was unable to carry out its work in the intended order, it should begin debate of the implementation of the 1970 budget and consider the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System.

55. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) reserved his delegation's position with regard to the first reading of the budget estimates.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF H.E. RAMÓN VILLEDA MORALES, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HONDURAS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Committee, expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Ramón Villeda Morales and to the people and delegation of Honduras in connexion with the sudden death of Mr. Villeda Morales.

**AGENDA ITEM 80**

**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (continued) (A/8397 and Add.1, A/8411 and Add.1)**

2. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) recalled that in connexion with the natural disasters which had struck Romania and the Philippines, his delegation had requested that the case of his own country should be given due consideration by the Committee on Contributions.

3. Referring to the unprecedented cyclone which had struck Pakistan, he reviewed the reasons why the Committee on Contributions had decided that it could not accede to the Pakistan appeal for a review of its assessed contribution: the insignificance of the relief that it would provide given the magnitude of the disaster suffered; the difficulties which might be created by establishing such a precedent in the event that no new Members were being admitted to the Organization at the time it was being considered; the fact that the effects of the disasters would in any case be reflected in the triennial review of the scale based on national income statistics for the years 1969-1971.

4. While his delegation understood the complex problems involved in revising the scale of assessments, it felt that the primary consideration should be the Member States' capacity to pay, as the General Assembly had emphasized in several resolutions. That capacity was adversely affected when the economy of the country was suddenly disrupted.

5. The Committee had further justified its decision by pointing out that emergency relief had been provided by other United Nations agencies. Although it was grateful for the assistance given, it still believed that in view of the magnitude of the disaster, the long-term problems which were not alleviated by emergency relief and the necessity of halting some of the ongoing UNDP projects in order to meet the emergency, the Committee on Contributions

should have responded in a positive manner to the requests made by Pakistan and Romania. It was a matter of principle: a favourable decision by the Committee would have meant that all the Member States would have been involved in the relief operation.

6. Countries struck by natural disasters were confronted by two other problems: their inability to earn foreign exchange when their economy was disrupted and the extremely heavy cost of servicing their external debt. When a country reached a point where one fifth of the foreign exchange it earned was consumed by interest on loans, the Committee on Contributions should make special efforts to provide relief to that country by establishing a formula which would be applied automatically at that juncture. Yet, as would be seen from paragraph 21 of its report (A/8411), the Committee on Contributions had merely applied a vague and indecisive formula. His delegation would have preferred a clear-cut procedure which would enable the Member State concerned to know beforehand what kind of concession it could expect the Committee to grant in respect of its assessed contribution. Nevertheless, his delegation was fully confident that the Chairman and members of the Committee on Contributions would be in a position to suggest a formula capable of meeting the situations he had described.

7. His delegation had understood the General Assembly decision quoted in paragraph 24 of the report to mean that the Assembly had authorized payment of a portion of Member States' contributions in currencies other than United States dollars as a concession primarily to those countries whose currencies were required by the United Nations and particularly to the developing countries. But in paragraph 24, the Committee on Contributions recognized the right of other Member States to pay a portion of their contributions in currencies other than United States dollars. His delegation wished to make it clear that payments in currencies other than United States dollars should be allowed primarily to countries whose currencies were required by the Organization; if the country concerned did not wish to avail itself of that option, preference should be given to developing countries.

8. In connexion with paragraph 28 of the report, he expressed the hope that economies could be made by holding the next session of the Committee on Contributions at Geneva and he therefore had no objection to the suggested change of venue.

9. His delegation supported the Committee's recommendation concerning the assessed contributions of Fiji and Bhutan.

10. Mr. DUMA (Romania) said that his delegation had carefully studied the report of the Committee on Contribu-

tions and followed with interest the discussion on the scale of assessments. Romania was indeed one of the countries which had suffered serious loss of life and property as a result of natural disasters, namely, the tremendous floods of May and June 1970. The resulting damage to the Romanian economy was calculated at millions of dollars and Romania's capacity to pay had been severely diminished.

11. He wished to associate himself with the statements made by the representative of Pakistan and the delegations which had called for an adjustment in the scale of assessments. His delegation hoped that the Committee on Contributions would show understanding and flexibility in seeking a solution to the problem when it undertook the revision of the scale of assessments in 1973.

12. Mr. SARIN (Khmer Republic) said that he had read the report of the Committee on Contributions with great interest and had found it excellent. However, with regard to certain Member States which had not paid their contributions owing to serious floods and other national disasters which had severely disrupted the economy of their countries, his delegation agreed that in view of the magnitude of those disasters, the Committee on Contributions could respond favourably to their appeals even now by allowing a slight reduction in their assessed contributions. It therefore appealed to the Fifth Committee to see that the problem was given careful study.

13. The Fifth Committee should also call upon countries which had not been victims of natural disasters and had not met their commitments to regularize their position vis-à-vis the United Nations as soon as possible. For its own part, despite the fact that its economy was being sorely tried by a war imposed upon it by the Viet-Cong and North Viet-Nameese in defiance of all the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, his delegation had regularly paid its full contribution.

14. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said he regretted that the reasonable arguments adduced by the representatives of Pakistan and Romania had not convinced the Committee on Contributions. He emphasized that priority should be given to two factors in establishing the scale of assessments: the capacity to pay of the country concerned and its ability to secure foreign currency. In that connexion, his delegation had very carefully studied paragraphs 18-22 of the Committee's report. It fully supported General Assembly resolution 2654 (XXV) with regard to the payment of a portion of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars and it agreed with the representative of Brazil that an allowance formula should be worked out and applied to countries with low *per capita* income.

15. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that paragraph 24 of the report of the Committee on Contributions appeared to have raised doubts among the members of the Committee concerning the possibility offered certain Member States of paying part of their contribution in currencies other than United States dollars. The decisions adopted on the subject had been clearly expressed in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly on the scale of assessments at the twenty-fifth session,<sup>1</sup> and the Secretariat had correctly

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 77, document A/8183, para. 8.

interpreted these decisions. He hoped that when the Committee on Contributions reviewed the criteria and methods for establishing the scale, it would give full consideration to the ability of Member States to secure foreign currency. The Committee on Contributions had cited the difficulties it had encountered in taking account of those factors, but it should not be impossible to work out a satisfactory formula. The Committee on Contributions should define those difficulties clearly and submit a detailed report on the question at the twenty-seventh session.

16. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said he also wished to remind the Committee on Contributions that it should give more attention to the ability of countries to obtain foreign currency. Referring to paragraph 24 of the report on the Committee on Contributions, he stressed that the possibility of paying part of a country's contribution in currencies other than United States dollars was not a privilege granted to developing countries which were more developed than others; he argued that the least developed developing countries should be given special attention because of their special development problems. He wanted to know what arrangements had been made to give effect to the recommendation of the Fifth Committee quoted in paragraph 24 of the report of the Committee on Contributions and what currencies other than United States dollars were required by the United Nations to meet certain expenses.

17. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that his delegation agreed with the conclusion reached by the Committee on Contributions in paragraph 15 of its report. He did not see how the scale of assessments could serve as the appropriate machinery for providing emergency relief. Other means had to be found to establish a procedure for providing better assistance.

18. While he fully supported the efforts of the Committee on Contributions—mentioned in paragraph 22 of its report—for the different elements of the low *per capita* income allowance formula so as to adjust it to the changing world situation, he considered it important that those criteria should be applied in a coherent manner; a measure of caution in that respect appeared desirable. His delegation commended the Committee on Contributions on its work and fully supported its report.

19. Mr. MÉRIGO AZA (Mexico) agreed with the representative of Norway and supported the report of the Committee on Contributions as a whole, particularly paragraph 22.

20. Mr. BURWEEN (Libyan Arab Republic) also expressed regret that the Committee on Contributions had not found it possible to allow a reduction in the contributions of the two countries that had suffered natural disasters, Pakistan in particular.

21. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania concerning the payment of part of a country's contribution in currencies other than United States dollars, recalled that, on the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions, the General Assembly, in paragraph (c) of resolu-

tion 2654 (XXV), had authorized the Secretary-General to accept, at his discretion and after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, a portion of the contributions of Member States for the financial years 1971, 1972 and 1973 in currencies other than United States dollars. During the discussion of the Committee on Contributions' report in the Fifth Committee at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, several delegations had expressed their support of the recommendation of the Committee on Contributions that the arrangements for payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars be extended to the years 1971-1973, and that they be made as comprehensive as possible. In that connexion, the Fifth Committee had also decided unanimously to include in its report a paragraph recommending that the needs of the Organization in currencies other than the United States dollar should be met by giving priority for payments in non-United States currencies to the countries whose currencies they might be.<sup>2</sup> The Secretary-General, in a communication dated 12 January 1971, had informed Member States of the fifteen currencies in which part payment of the 1971 contributions could be accepted. The currencies included in the arrangements were those in which relatively large amounts of United Nations regular budget expenditures were foreseen, namely, Austrian schillings, Chilean escudos, Ethiopian dollars, Israeli pounds, Mexican pesos, Netherlands guilders, pounds sterling, Swiss francs and Thailand baht. In addition, it was estimated that a limited amount would be required in the following currencies: Belgian francs, French francs, Indian rupees, Lebanese pounds, Pakistan rupees and Syrian pounds. The Secretary-General had asked Member States wishing to effect payment in respect of their 1971 contributions in one or more of those currencies to notify him before 15 February and at the same time indicate the maximum amount that the Government would wish to remit in each of the currencies selected for payment, and the approximate date by which such remittance or remittances could be expected. Member States which had replied affirmatively would be advised as soon as possible thereafter of the specific amounts that might be remitted in the currencies indicated by them. Obviously, however, the extent to which the wishes expressed by Member States could in fact be accommodated would be dependent on estimated United Nations expenditures in non-United States currencies and those, in turn, would be directly affected by the promptness with which such currencies were made available.

22. The interest expressed by Member States in making payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars was limited to eight of the acceptable currencies listed in the Secretary-General's communication. It was found that the requests of Member States to pay in the currencies specified could be met within the estimated requirements of the Organization, with the exception of Indian rupees and Pakistan rupees. The Governments of India and Pakistan had asked to pay the maximum amounts acceptable by the United Nations in their respective currencies and certain other Members had also expressed an interest in making payment in those currencies. Taking into account the directive formulated by the Fifth Committee at the twenty-fifth session, and the fact that the United

Nations needs in Indian rupees and Pakistan rupees were appreciably below the budget assessment of India and Pakistan respectively, each was allowed to pay in its own currency the total amount required by the United Nations. That measure was considered to be in conformity with the Fifth Committee's directive that the need of the Organization in currencies other than United States dollars should be met by giving priority for payments in non-United States currencies to the countries whose currencies they might be.

23. In answer to the question of the representative of Pakistan regarding the financial implications of the Committee on Contributions' next session he said that the cost of a two-week session in New York would be about \$11,000, and that of a similar session at Geneva would be \$18,500.

24. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) thanked the Controller for his explanations and expressed the hope that the Committee on Contributions would have the opportunity to examine the method of payment of contributions in greater depth. Under the present system the poorest developing countries continued to encounter the same kind of difficulties, whereas the countries whose currencies the United Nations needed were favoured. That was unfair and he hoped the anomaly would be corrected.

25. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) supported the speakers who had expressed interest in the findings of the review mentioned in paragraph 22 of the report of the Committee on Contributions. The low *per capita* income allowance formula should be revised so as to adjust it to the changing world economic situation. He supported the representative of Brazil on that point.

26. Mr. GUPTA (India) thanked the Controller for his explanations. He was grateful to the Secretary-General for having allowed India to pay the total amount required by the United Nations in Indian rupees. He wondered, however, what decision the Secretariat would have made if United Nations needs in Indian rupees had been greater than the amount of India's contribution. His delegation entirely agreed with the representative of Brazil that the priority referred to in the recommendation of the Fifth Committee was an absolute priority. India would not agree to a country's not being entitled to pay its entire contribution in its own currency so as to enable other countries with different currencies also to make payments in that currency.

27. Mr. TURNER (Controller) assured the representative of India that in such an event, the Secretary-General would act in accordance with the spirit of the Fifth Committee recommendation and give absolute priority for payments in non-United States currencies to the countries whose currencies they might be.

28. Mr. Amjad ALI (Chairman of the Committee on Contributions) thanked representatives for their comments on the report of the Committee on Contributions. In his opinion the report proposed a satisfactory answer to the requests for reduction of contributions put forward by certain countries which had been struck by natural disasters. With due regard to the sympathy expressed by the Fifth Committee for those countries, the Committee on

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

Contributions had not seen fit to accede to their request immediately and reduce their assessments because as it had indicated in paragraph 13 of its report, the effects of the disasters would be taken into consideration in 1973 in the course of the triennial review of the scale of assessments. At that time it could also examine further the particular situation of the countries which had been struck by major disasters.

29. With respect to the allowance formula for countries with low *per capita* income, the Committee on Contributions intended to revise the various elements of the formula at its following session, as stated in paragraph 22 of its report.

30. In answer to the remark made by the representative of Ghana at the previous meeting concerning the subsistence economy of the rural population in certain developing countries, he explained that in establishing the individual assessments, the Committee on Contributions always used the national income statistics provided by the Governments themselves. The Committee on Contributions would continue to take the special economic and financial problems of the developing countries into account.

31. With regard to the observations of the representatives of India and Pakistan concerning the increase of the external debt of the developing countries and on the burden that amortizing that debt laid on those countries, he stated that the Committee on Contributions took that into account in establishing the scale of assessments and that it proposed to study the matter in greater detail at its next session.

32. Finally, he said that the Committee on Contributions would meet at Geneva since, owing to the calendar of conferences, it could not meet at Headquarters.

33. Mr. GUPTA (India) thanked the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions for his explanations and proposed that a paragraph should be inserted in the report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly to read as follows:

“The Fifth Committee took note of the fact that, in making arrangements for payments by Member States of 1971 contributions in currencies other than United States dollars, the Secretary-General had taken into account the recommendation of the Fifth Committee set forth in paragraph 8 of its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.<sup>3</sup> In that connexion, the Fifth Committee approved the interpretation given by the Secretary-General to the meaning of the word “priority” mentioned in that directive, which he had correctly taken to mean absolute priority, and recommends that the Secretary-General should continue to implement that directive in the same manner in the future.”

34. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) supported the Indian proposal.

35. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) pointed out that the proposed paragraph was a repetition of the corresponding

passage in the Fifth Committee’s report at the twenty-fifth session. It was useful, nevertheless, in that it dispelled any possible misunderstanding as to how to interpret the word “priority”. He suggested that the President of the General Assembly should draw Members’ attention to that paragraph when the Fifth Committee’s report was discussed by the Assembly in plenary meetings.

36. Mr. GUPTA (India) endorsed the request, pointing out that at the previous session, two of the paragraphs in the report adopted by the Fifth Committee had not been adopted by the General Assembly because its attention had not been drawn to them in the plenary meeting.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that the Rapporteur would take into account the observations of the representatives of Brazil and India.

38. Mr. TARÁSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was still unable to take a position on the Indian proposal and requested the Secretariat to circulate the text of it in all working languages.

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, E/5038)

#### *General discussion (continued)*

39. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria), recalling that the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the financial difficulties of the United Nations, which was on the brink of insolvency, said that his delegation was confident that Member States would be able at the current session to find ways of eliminating the threat. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had indicated certain interim measures which could be taken immediately until a solution was found (see A/C.5/1377). The Chairman had pointed out that on 30 June 1971 only about one third of the contributions due for the financial year 1971 had been received and had concluded that it would help if Member States were to pay their contribution more promptly.

40. The origins of the financial crisis were well known and, in his delegation’s view, there was no point in establishing a new committee to investigate them. At that juncture, a solution had to be found which respected the positions of all Member States involved. The Fifth Committee should embark on that task as soon as possible because its main objective was to keep the Organization functioning in the most effective and economical way. At the Secretary-General’s request, the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, had been working towards an over-all solution and his delegation was happy that active negotiations were continuing. It hoped that they would lead to a solution acceptable to all Member States and thereby remove the threat of financial insolvency.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



41. The Secretary-General had submitted initial budget estimates totalling some \$207.7 million and had indicated that that figure might increase to some \$215 million. That would represent an increase of 11 or 12 per cent over the gross appropriation of \$192 million for 1971. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of some \$2.4 million and he had noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General had accepted that reduction. His delegation was concerned at those figures, which showed that the expenditures of the United Nations tended to rise, unaffected by any measures introduced to ease the financial pressure on Member States and to bring about a lasting solution to the apparently insoluble problem of bringing demands into line with available resources. His delegation was aware of the difficulties confronting the Secretary-General and recognized that a considerable portion of the increase was related to factors beyond his control. His delegation did not share the views of those who systematically opposed every increase in administrative expenditure as being unproductive. Nevertheless, it realized that additional measures could be introduced to make the Organization more effective. Thus, a request by Member States that the Secretariat prepare a report should not automatically entail the establishment of a new post or the engagement of an outside consultant. The Secretariat should have more confidence in its own machinery and should try to solve the problems within its existing establishment.

42. His delegation had consistently concurred in the budget proposals of the Secretary-General, in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and once again was prepared to adopt the same positive attitude.

43. The presentation of the United Nations budget and the duration of the budget cycle had been the subject of extensive examination in recent years. The main issue had been the question whether the budget should be presented on a programme basis rather than by object of expenditure, as it was now. The *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies had stated in its second report<sup>4</sup> that the further development of an integrated system of long-term planning on a programmed basis was an essential ingredient in improving the programming and budgetary processes and ensuring throughout the United Nations system the most rational use of available resources. Mr. Bertrand of the Joint Inspection Unit had stated in his report of September 1969<sup>5</sup> that the United Nations should present its budget estimates, where feasible, by programme, covering all activities undertaken by the Organization, whether financed under the regular budget or from extra-budgetary resources. The Advisory Committee in its related report<sup>6</sup> considered that programme budgeting coupled with medium-term or long-term programming would be advantageous to the United Nations provided that the necessary prerequisites for its effective operation were met. In that same report the Advisory Committee had pointed out that, if the United Nations was to institute meaningful pro-

gramme budgeting, the Member States should first of all devise a mechanism that would enable them to be much more specific about their objectives than they had been in the past. The United Nations had a multiplicity of programmes, each with its own programme-formulating bodies, and those programmes had not so far been subjected to any systematic review by a main organ in order to determine where the thrust of the collective effort should be brought to bear. The question of programme budgeting had also been discussed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination which had also felt<sup>7</sup> that a beginning should be made in presenting the United Nations budget on a programme basis.

44. His delegation had noted with great satisfaction that, after extensive discussions, the General Assembly had decided at its twenty-fifth session that the budget for the financial year 1972<sup>8</sup> should be presented in the form of a mock-up. It was glad to see that the importance of the rationalization of budgetary procedures seemed to be generally recognized. In paragraphs 22-26 of his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the need for establishing priorities for the work of the complex system of the international organizations. In the Secretary-General's view, the "next essential step must be the early establishment of an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting which would permit the preparation of a budget on a programme basis within the framework of a medium-term plan for the achievement of stated objectives".

45. A review of the progress achieved in programme budgeting by the specialized agencies showed that the system had been adopted by FAO, UNESCO, the ILO and WHO. FAO, UNESCO and the ILO had adopted a system of biennial budgeting and medium-term programming had already been started by UNESCO and FAO and was envisaged for the ILO in the near future. UNESCO and FAO had established a special programme budgeting service to deal with the problems involved. It must be concluded that the United Nations was not as advanced as the specialized agencies in that respect.

46. As the Fifth Committee had not yet received the mock-up of the programme budget for the financial year 1972, his delegation would reserve comment until a later stage. Nevertheless, the experience of the specialized agencies showed that the programme budgeting system provided an over-all picture of the activities undertaken and, consequently, enabled the Committee to reach a better definition of priorities. Programme budgeting should strengthen international co-operation because it permitted a better selection and definition of objectives and, consequently, the establishment of an order of priorities. Programme budgeting would facilitate the difficult task of reconciling objectives with the means available to attain them.

47. Obviously, the experience acquired by the specialized agencies in programme budgeting could not be applied

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343, para. 68.

<sup>5</sup> See document A/7822 (mimeographed), of 3 December 1969.

<sup>6</sup> See document A/8033 relating to agenda item 80 of the Twenty-fifth Session of the General Assembly, issued separately (offset).

<sup>7</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 11*, para. 20.

<sup>8</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 80, document A/8266, para. 28.



automatically to the United Nations, which had a specific structure and was active in a multiplicity of fields. The number of committees and governing bodies and the absence of clear lines of demarcation between the various fields of action were additional complications.

48. In the case of the United Nations Secretariat, it appeared necessary to establish a technical committee to co-ordinate the economic and social activities undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD and UNIDO, and to establish a high level programme and budget review committee, as proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 23 and 24 of his report (A/C.5/1335).<sup>9</sup>

49. The practice now was for the programme-formulating bodies and those responsible for budgeting to work quite independently. His delegation did not consider that procedure satisfactory and looked forward to hearing comments on the issue which might lead to the adoption of a more rational method of working.

50. In paragraph 16 of his 1970 report, the Secretary-General had pointed out that if the process of natural organic growth was to be transformed into a conscious process of controlled growth, the authority to approve projects and to determine organizational programme and budgetary policy should be concentrated in as few governmental bodies as possible, ideally in a single body. Although the question was extremely complicated, his delegation was confident that the Fifth Committee would find a solution. If programme budgeting was introduced, the power of the Advisory Committee would have to be redefined and

<sup>9</sup> Document relating to agenda item 80 of the Twenty-fifth Session, issued separately (offset).

widened and it would have to adopt new working methods. It might also prove necessary to redefine the functions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which should concentrate essentially on the establishment of a synthesis of the programmes of all the specialized agencies and thereby establish itself as the organ competent to prepare the work of the Economic and Social Council relating to the economic and social programmes of the United Nations.

51. The Fifth Committee should not lose sight of the need to establish a mechanism which would permit prior and official consultations by Member States regarding the level of the budget for the coming financial year. Logically, it was only after a decision had been taken regarding the rate of increase in the level of expenditure that a decision concerning the various priorities could be taken. His delegation suggested that the procedures developed by the specialized agencies in that connexion should be taken into account. It would like to have the views of other delegations on that question because it was one which would strongly influence the development of the United Nations.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

52. Following an exchange of views on the organization of work, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should revise the decision taken at its 1428th meeting, and begin the first reading of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 after it had received the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 80

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (*continued*) (A/8397 and Add.1, A/8411 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.5)

1. Mr. NAITO (Japan) thanked the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions for the two very comprehensive statements he had made on previous occasions (1427th and 1429th meetings).

2. His delegation had noted with interest paragraphs 18 to 22 of the report of the Committee on Contributions (A/8411) on methods for the establishment of the scale. It was stated in paragraph 19 that the Committee had requested the Secretary-General to prepare certain documentation for its continued examination of the question at its 1972 session in advance of the triennial review of the scale in 1973. The Committee intended to continue its endeavours to improve methods for establishment of the scale, and his delegation hoped it would succeed. The world situation was constantly changing and the capacity to pay of Member States was also changing from year to year. His delegation recognized the merit of the existing formulas for the establishment of the scale but considered that they should be continually reviewed and adapted realistically to the changing situation. He was sure that the Committee on Contributions would display its usual conscientiousness when reviewing the present scale in the light of the new data and materials to be supplied by the Secretariat.

3. Turning to the question of changes in assessments of countries stricken by natural disasters considered in paragraphs 10-15 of the report, he said that the Committee on Contributions had had to make a difficult choice between humanitarian considerations and the need to maintain a fair and stable scale. Japan was very often stricken by natural disasters, and his delegation sympathized with countries which had recently suffered such disasters. However, it questioned the desirability of reducing the assessments of such countries before the triennial review since, in any case, the Committee on Contributions, when undertaking the review, would pay attention to the special situation of countries stricken by natural disasters. As the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions had explained, if the assessments of some States were reduced before the triennial review those of others would have to be increased and the scale approved by the General Assembly re-opened. His Government was not fully satisfied with its assessment for the years 1971 to 1973, which showed a 36.5 per cent increase over that for the previous year. Nevertheless, his

delegation was of the view that stability of the scale was better for the Organization than frequent changes in the scale for one reason or another. It therefore endorsed the conclusion of the Committee on Contributions formulated in paragraph 15 of its report, but hoped that, when establishing the next scale, the Committee would pay special attention to the assessment of countries which had suffered natural disasters.

4. His delegation noted with deep satisfaction that an addendum (A/8411/Add.2) to the Committee's report had been issued indicating assessed or voluntary contributions paid by Member States for the years 1969 and 1970.

5. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Committee on Contributions for its comprehensive and objective report and the Chairman of the Committee for his very clear introductory statement. The members of the Committee on Contributions had very carefully examined all the questions before them, including those relating to the assessment of new Member States, appeals for changes in assessments, methods for establishment of the scale and payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars. The Committee on Contributions had discussed the possibility of improving methods for the establishment of the scale and had requested the Secretary-General to prepare certain documentation for its continued examination of that question. He drew attention, in that connexion, to three criteria which should always govern establishment of the scale, namely, the capacity to pay of Member States, comparative *per capita* income and the ability of Member States to obtain foreign exchange.

6. His delegation sympathized with Pakistan and Romania, whose economies had been seriously affected by natural disasters and had noted with satisfaction that the Committee on Contributions would take account of their special situation when undertaking the triennial review of the scale in 1973.

7. In so far as the question of the payment of contributions in currencies other than the United States dollar was concerned, while appreciating the view expressed by the Indian delegation at the previous meeting, he considered that the Secretary-General should be allowed a certain margin for manoeuvre in applying General Assembly resolution 2654 (XXV). Nor should it be overlooked that the amounts of foreign currencies needed by the United Nations might sometimes exceed the contribution of the countries whose currencies they were.

8. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) thanked the Committee on Contributions for its report. It was regrettable that the Committee had been unable to give favourable considera-

tion to Pakistan's and Romania's requests. As several members, particularly the Brazilian representative, had pointed out, a reduction in those countries' assessments need not have caused difficulties, particularly in view of the admission of new Members.

9. It appeared that the Committee on Contributions had been unable to establish criteria to govern the payment of contributions in currencies other than the United States dollar. The Controller's reply at the previous meeting to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on that question had not been quite clear. He had mentioned nine currencies the Organization needed very badly and six it needed less badly. He would like to know what criteria had been applied to enable some countries to pay the whole of their assessment in their national currency and what were the Organization's needs for those currencies.

10. He fully supported the proposal made by the Indian delegation at the 1429th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.5).

11. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) thanked those members of the Fifth Committee who had supported his delegation's request. In anticipation of similar situations, the Committee on Contributions should try to find an applicable formula for the future. He hoped that the Committee on Contributions would pay the greatest possible attention to Pakistan's difficulties when making the triennial review of the scale.

12. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) said that, like the Iraqi representative, he would appreciate further explanations from the Controller.

13. He pointed out that there was an error in annex I of document A/8411/Add.2: it would appear from the table that the Philippines had not paid its contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations for 1970. That was not the case and he requested that the error should be corrected.

14. When his delegation had spoken on this item at the twenty-fifth session (1373rd meeting), it had expressed the hope that the assessments of countries with a *per capita* income of under \$300 would be reduced. It continued to hope that the Committee on Contributions would pay attention to the situation of those countries. It had also emphasized the question of countries stricken by natural disasters. The Philippines had recently been devastated by a very violent typhoon which had caused considerable damage. His delegation would submit statistical data on the effects of that catastrophe to the Committee on Contributions.

15. Mr. BURWEEN (Libyan Arab Republic) said that his delegation regretted the conclusion reached by the Committee on Contributions in paragraph 16 of its report, namely, that there was no need to reduce the assessment for the Libyan Arab Republic.

16. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the question raised by the Iraqi representative, said that no country had yet paid the whole of its contribution in its national currency and that payments had been made in only eight of the fifteen currencies the Organization accepted.

17. Replying to the representative of the Philippines, he said that the table showed payments made during the financial year in question; that was why the payment which had been made by the Philippines in 1971 had not been included.

18. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the text of a paragraph (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.5) which the representative of India, supported by the representatives of Pakistan and Brazil, had proposed at the 1429th meeting for inclusion in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly.

19. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) proposed several minor amendments to the text submitted, to ensure that it reflected the view previously expressed by his delegation that the arrangements made to enable Member States to make payments in currencies other than United States dollars should be constantly reviewed in order that the greatest possible number of Member States might benefit. He proposed that, in the first sentence, the phrase "took note of the fact that" should be replaced by the words "was informed that" and that the second sentence should be amended to read:

"In that connexion, the Fifth Committee took note of the interpretation given by the Secretary-General to the word 'priority' mentioned in that directive and recommended that he should continue to implement that directive, subject to any recommendation which the General Assembly may give in this matter at its next triennial review of the scale."

20. Mr. GUPTA (India) explained that, in proposing the paragraph for inclusion in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly, he had been thinking particularly of the Brazilian representative's judicious observations on the matter at the 1428th meeting. The meaning of the paragraph which had been included in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly at the Twenty-fifth session<sup>1</sup> was very clear. However, it appeared that some members of the Committee on Contributions had doubts as to how to interpret the word "priority". The purpose of the proposed paragraph was to dispel any remaining doubts in that connexion. He did not quite see the purpose of the amendments proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and, in particular, why the word "approved" should be replaced by the words "took note of".

21. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) explained that the purpose of his amendments was to emphasize that the new measures taken to enable Member States to make payments in currencies other than United States dollars were not entirely satisfactory to all Member States and should be reviewed in future. The right of all Member States to make payment of contributions in their national currencies should be recognized. He was not disputing the Fifth Committee's recommendations in paragraph 8 of its report to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. However, the amendments he had proposed would make it possible to review the measures and study how they might be modified.

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 77, document A/8183, para. 8.

22. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) pointed out that the paragraph proposed by the representative of India was intended to provide the Committee on Contributions and the Secretary-General with clear guidelines. It contained nothing that had not been in the paragraph adopted at the previous session and merely confirmed that the Secretary-General's interpretation of that paragraph was correct.

23. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and the representative of India were referring to two different issues. The paragraph proposed by the representative of India concerned the priority to be given to countries whose currency the Organization needed for certain of its expenditure. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania was thinking of the actual process whereby countries and currencies were chosen. The paragraph proposed by the representative of India dealt with measures taken after the choice had been made. The procedure for choosing the currencies had been laid down in General Assembly resolution 2291 (XXII). The proposal of the United Republic of Tanzania should be the subject of a separate paragraph; it would not be appropriate to amend the paragraph proposed by the representative of India.

24. Mr. GUPTA (India) endorsed the Brazilian representative's comments and expressed the hope that the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania would withdraw his amendment.

25. The CHAIRMAN agreed with the representative of Brazil. As the Fifth Committee's report, in 1970, already contained a paragraph on the question, the new paragraph proposed by the representative of India would simply serve to place new emphasis on the question. However, it might be preferable simply to suggest that the Secretary-General should continue to implement the recommendations made by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of its 1970 report until such time as it gave him other directives, and to have the views of the various delegations reflected in the report.

26. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, following consultations with the representatives of Brazil, India and Pakistan, he would withdraw his amendment. Supported by the representatives of India and Pakistan, he proposed that a new paragraph should be included in the Fifth Committee's report after the paragraph proposed by the representative of India at the 1429th meeting. The text of the paragraph would be:

"Having considered paragraph 24 of the report of the Committee on Contributions, the Fifth Committee recommends that the Committee on Contributions should review the criteria of selection of currencies other than the United States dollar for payment of contributions to the regular budget and report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session."

27. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to include in its report to the General Assembly the paragraph proposed by the representative of India (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.5) as well as that proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

*It was so decided.*

28. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution proposed by the Committee on Contributions (A/8411, para. 29)

*The draft resolution was adopted by 69 votes to none.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3, E/5038)

#### *General discussion (continued)*

29. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) said he was very conscious of the financial crisis that the United Nations was experiencing, the urgency of which the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the Secretary-General himself had emphasized, each in turn. However, as a representative of a developing country, he could not accept that the legitimate desire for economy resulting from that situation should be translated into an arbitrary reduction of the Organization's future programmes of activity, particularly since, as the Secretary-General himself had pointed out in the statement he had made at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376), reductions in appropriations alone would not solve the financial crisis. He further pointed out that the fluid international monetary situation cast some doubt on the figures quoted in the budget estimates and that increases in expenditure did not, unfortunately, mean increases in programmes. Thus, of the estimated \$6.7 million for additional expenses which the Secretary-General mentioned in the foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), some \$2.5 million was due to the currency revaluation.

30. The initial estimates for 1972 reflected the findings and recommendations of the manpower utilization survey carried out thus far by the Administrative Management Service, whose progress report his delegation looked forward to receiving. He considered that improvement in the efficiency of the Organization was the first consideration, and that the profitability of the manpower utilization survey should not be measured in terms of an increase or decrease in staff. He shared the view expressed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 40 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2), on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, that in the next phase of its work the Administrative Management Service should place more emphasis on productivity, particularly in those areas where output could be measured with some degree of accuracy.

31. The figure of \$215 million which the Secretary-General had given in the statement he had made at the 1427th meeting, as representing the estimated gross requirement for 1972, reflected mainly cost increases in monetary terms over which the Secretary-General had little or no control. In real terms, only a small proportion represented an increase of United Nations activities over 1971. Roughly, only \$1.5 million was left to meet the high hopes attached to General Assembly resolution 2748 (XXV) which called for a suitable growth in the activities under-

taken by the Organization during the Second United Nations Development Decade. The gross figure of \$215 million was enough to support claims for the need for economy. But United Nations efforts to approach that goal should not be marred by explicit or implicit endeavours to impose ceilings or arbitrary rates of growth; it should instead seek better planning and co-ordination, a clearer delimitation of priorities, better evaluation of results and a stricter control over the use of resources, which were not unlimited. Guided by those principles, one might mention certain areas where increased expenditure appeared to be unjustified. One case, for example, was the substantial expenditure incurred over the years for temporary assistance, consultants and experts. The Advisory Committee had again drawn attention to that area and had called for efforts to draw staff from the United Nations Secretariat. In the statement he had made at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377), the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had said that the growing cost of consultants and temporary assistance had been a matter of some concern to the Advisory Committee. In fact, it was stated in section 3, chapter III, that 13 Professional and 79 General Service posts at Headquarters were financed on a continuing basis under "Other temporary assistance". In paragraph 114 of its first report, the Advisory Committee noted that, while the number of temporary General Service staff recruited for the sessions of the General Assembly had remained fairly constant, the number of temporary Professional staff had increased considerably in recent years: from 107 in 1968 to 155 in 1970. In that respect, the Advisory Committee suggested that if more strenuous efforts were made to improve productivity, very substantial economies could be achieved.

32. His delegation fully supported the view expressed by the Advisory Committee that individual experts and consultants should be employed only when the necessary expertise was not available in the Secretariat. His delegation wished to be informed in due course of the procedure and practice which governed decisions in that respect. Furthermore, the rising need for consultants and experts cast serious doubt on the present personnel policy and gave the impression that the necessary expertise was constantly lacking in the Secretariat. In that connexion, it was not unreasonable to assume that the United Nations was incapable of attracting sufficient qualified persons to satisfy its growing need for specialized staff in diverse fields. The present career system in the Secretariat was thus called into question, since the opportunities offered were not always tempting enough to attract and retain the most highly qualified candidates. Consequently, there was a pressing need to establish a career development programme and to improve performance evaluation and the system of staff promotion. On-the-job training was necessary to ensure that staff members were better prepared to perform their new tasks and to enable them not only to improve their skills but also to develop other talents which would qualify them for advancement to more responsible posts. His delegation therefore looked forward to the circulation of the special report on training to which the Secretary-General had referred in his statement at the 1427th meeting.

33. The increasing cost of construction was also disconcerting, particularly since delays in execution led inevitably to rising costs of projects. Thus, in paragraph 162 of its first

report, the Advisory Committee stated that the sixth annual instalment towards the cost of the extension to the Palais des Nations at Geneva might have to be revised upward to \$2.5 million, since the total cost of the project might amount to about \$27.5 million, compared with the \$22 million approved by the General Assembly in resolution 2488 (XXIII). It was further stated that even the higher figure might not enable the building to be completed to full specification, and the revaluation of the Swiss franc would add further to the cost. While his delegation realized that certain unforeseen circumstances had caused delay and that the rising cost might be due to unavoidable factors, it hoped that the Secretary-General's report on the extension to the Palais des Nations would shed more light on the question.

34. With regard to electronic data processing, which appeared to be essential to the proper functioning of the United Nations system and to the efficient use of its resources, he regretted that the International Computing Centre, established at Geneva for the benefit of all, seemed to meet with only lukewarm support from the majority of organizations in the system. The Centre, which had become operative on 1 March 1971, was financed only by the United Nations, UNDP and WHO. The specialized agencies not only hesitated to participate in the Centre but also, in certain cases, were expanding their own electronic data processing installations. His delegation fully supported the Advisory Committee's request—in paragraph 45 of its first report—urging all concerned to review their policies so that the Centre might soon become a truly common facility for the United Nations family.

35. With regard to the question of programme budgeting, he noted that, at the outset of the Second Development Decade, the formulation of an integrated and coherent programme of action gained particular significance. He recalled that, in his comparison of the United Nations with the specialized agencies, the representative of Austria had pointed out at the previous meeting that the experience of the agencies in programme budgeting did not automatically apply to the United Nations, where the structure and the multiplicity of fields of activity required perhaps a different procedure for a programme budgeting system. However, he felt that what was known about programme budgeting seemed enough to justify another step forward, and he looked forward to the publication of the mock-up of the programme budget. As the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had said, the change in presentation of the budget was only one component of the proposed system. Since the Fifth Committee was to discuss at the current session measures to improve the organization of the Economic and Social Council, he felt it was pertinent to recall that at the previous session Mr. Bannier, former Chairman of the Advisory Committee, had drawn attention<sup>2</sup> to the need for the Economic and Social Council and programme-formulating bodies to produce more accurate reports, giving more specific recommendations and a clearer definition of attitudes based on more substantive discussions of proposed programmes in all their aspects.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, agenda item 73, document A/C.5/1310.

36. To sum up, he observed that the primary purpose of the United Nations was the maintenance of international peace and security, and expressed the hope that the Organization's role in that field would continue to receive moral and material support from all its Members, particularly in the Fifth Committee.

37. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that he had listened closely to the statements made at the 1427th meeting by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the budgetary estimates for 1972. What emerged from those statements was an unhappy tale of the Organization's distressing financial situation, which jeopardized even current activities and would necessitate the application of arbitrary restrictive measures unless the major contributors made additional contributions on a voluntary basis. The Organization's financial woes dated back to the United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Middle East and the Congo, undertaken under a mandate from the General Assembly but with the reservations of certain Powers. The outstanding debt of more than \$50 million incurred from both past and present peace-keeping operations still remained unsettled.

38. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the efforts being made by Mr. Hambro, former President of the General Assembly, to find a solution for that very serious crisis. Indeed, there were some encouraging signs, judging from the response of at least one world Power. Even though the Secretary-General did not foresee a solution to the present crisis in the immediate future, his delegation believed that there was so much at stake that an organization which was so vital to the survival and welfare of all States, both large and small, would not be permitted to founder. Furthermore, since the international monetary crisis also affected the finances and future of the Organization, his delegation wished to stress the need for global participation in any new international monetary reform, which should not depend only on the 10 most highly developed countries.

39. The budget estimates for 1972 had been projected at \$215 million, which was considered a minimum requirement if the objectives of the Organization were to be achieved. That figure represented an increase of roughly 11 per cent over the 1971 appropriation, which came to \$192 million. However, a closer analysis indicated that the increase was not due to growth in real terms but rather to an increase in administrative costs arising from the general inflationary trend, the effects of the revaluation of certain European currencies and salary increases affecting contractual services.

40. At the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had pointed out that only one quarter of United Nations resources were devoted to programmes whereas as much as three quarters were being used to defray administrative costs. Unfortunately, the current budget widened that gap even further to the detriment of the interests of the developing countries. Those countries regarded membership in the United Nations not only as an attribute of their sovereignty but as a means of joining with other States in seeking solutions to global problems, particularly those most easily identifiable, such as poverty, illiteracy and disease. Those hopes were unfortunately being frustrated and giving way to dangerous discontent.

41. As his delegation had also stressed, if developing countries were to make a great leap forward and realize the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade, programmes would have to play a more important role. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the intention expressed by the Secretary-General to submit a mock-up of a programme budget for 1972. Unlike the present annual budget, which was presented according to object of expenditure, the programme budget would indicate in detail the activities already initiated as well as those to be undertaken, thus enabling Member States to assess the benefits they derived from the Organization for which funding was required. In that way, arbitrary cuts could be avoided and the concept of a biennial or medium-term programme would facilitate a better integration of the contributions into the long-term development plans of Member States.

42. In his report (A/8401) on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General pointed out that the developing countries would have to begin the Second Development Decade with weakening terms of trade, a situation fostered by the growing debt servicing burden they now bore, which prevented them from attaining the investment objectives of the International Development Strategy. Nevertheless, programme budgeting properly conceived and executed held the promise of creating the right conditions for more sustained economic growth.

43. Economic growth would have a better chance of being promoted through better management techniques. His delegation was gratified that the Secretary-General had referred in his statement before the Fifth Committee to his sustained efforts to exercise strict control and ensure greater financial discipline. There was a widespread feeling, however, that the staff was not evenly distributed, that some units were overworked while others did not have enough to do, which placed a drain on the Organization's limited resources. His delegation was looking forward eagerly to the detailed report outlining the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service for the introduction of better management techniques, the re-deployment of existing staff in a more productive manner and the weeding out of the dead-weights. It was prepared to give those recommendations its fullest support. The 8 per cent increase in the salaries of Professional and other categories of staff should encourage the staff to give of their best. In that connexion, it was heartening that a study leave plan had been instituted to enable deserving staff members to improve their skills. His delegation also endorsed the proposal by UNITAR for the establishment of a Staff College. Those advance training facilities, together with the in-service training scheme being conducted by the Secretariat, would help the staff to attain the high qualifications required by the Charter.

44. In the recruitment of staff, his delegation urged the Secretary-General to continue to apply the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly for the purpose of ensuring a more equitable distribution of staff at all levels, particularly at the senior levels, and in all fields, in accordance with the Charter requirements of efficiency, competence and integrity. If recruitment was conducted strictly in accordance with those guidelines, and considering the in-service training facilities, the effect should be higher

productivity, thus reducing the need to rely on consultants and temporary assistants, which accounted for about 9.5 per cent of the United Nations annual budget.

45. A development which adversely affected the financial discipline of the United Nations system was the proliferation of bodies performing almost the same functions. At the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had had occasion to draw attention to the problem and to call for better co-ordination among bodies with similar functions, which should avoid duplication of work by more effectively harmonizing their efforts.

46. Another area where waste could be avoided was documentation, which was not only overwhelming the Secretariat, but more particularly the small States which had neither the personnel nor the time to wade through the ever-increasing volume of documentation relating to the various agenda items. In that connexion, his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that reducing the level of documentation required the co-operation not only of the Secretariat but of Member States. A similar reduction in the calendar of conferences, with the co-operation of Member States, might result in substantial savings in administrative costs.

47. The Office of Public Information still had a great deal to do if the objectives of the Second Development Decade were to be better appreciated by Member States. Unlike the political problems of the United Nations, which were very familiar to the general public, the economic and social areas where considerable efforts were being made and much was being accomplished in the war against poverty, the exchange of technology and respect for human dignity were not brought to public attention with sufficient impact. Consequently, with due regard for the important role played by the Office of Public Information thus far, his delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's view that there was a growing need for it to adopt a more imaginative approach to information activities and to give greater publicity to United Nations achievements in the economic and social fields.

48. It was encouraging to see that income from revenue-producing activities had shown a modest increase of \$256,000 over 1971; the increase was attributable to the issuance of commemorative medals, which was estimated to yield some \$200,000. His delegation greatly appreciated that initiative and urged the Secretariat to continue its search for more revenue-generating items. In that regard, he proposed that consideration be given to the feasibility of promoting a monthly lottery sponsored by the United Nations. Monthly lotteries constituted a revenue-producing activity in many Member States, including Ghana, and the Secretariat should take a close look at the proposal. Furthermore, and although its feasibility might be doubtful in the immediate future, the Secretariat, in co-operation with Member States, should give serious consideration to the proposal that the United Nations should be empowered to issue licences for the exploitation of the sea-bed and to impose a tax on international trade. His delegation supported consideration of those proposals as long-term prospects.

49. Under its resolution 2618 (XXIV), the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to carry out new

construction and major modifications to the Headquarters premises at a projected cost of \$80 million. The construction should have started in 1971 and was to have been completed by 1973. In the budget estimates (A/8406, para. 7.9), it was stated that certain significant contributions to the total financing plan had not been confirmed and the work had therefore not been initiated. His delegation deeply regretted the delay in view of the present congestion at Headquarters, the great expense of renting outside premises and the need to site the new construction as near as possible to other Headquarters premises. *The New York Times* of 12 October 1971 had reported that the United States Congress had not appropriated its promised contribution of \$20 million, without which the project could not be started. Added to that were the rumours that a number of United States Senators were prepared to initiate legislation to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations in the event that the General Assembly decided to expel Taiwan from the Organization. His delegation earnestly appealed to the donor countries, whose contributions were required before the new construction could be started, to provide the necessary financing.

50. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) stressed the extreme seriousness of the financial crisis through which the United Nations was now passing. The Secretary-General in his statement at the 1427th meeting had drawn the attention of the Fifth Committee to the gravity of the situation. The crisis had been with the Organization for a number of years but had now reached a point where, unless a solution was found in the immediate future, the Organization would face the danger of disintegration.

51. The problem represented by the delay in paying assessed contributions could be resolved at once if all countries were to pay their contributions without undue delay. The adoption of a policy of budgetary constraint as suggested by the Secretary-General could help, but only on a short-term emergency basis. Such a course had a number of disadvantages. It would mask the fundamental problem facing the Organization without providing a solution to it. It might lead the Organization into a static position and make it more susceptible to pressure from those who would like to see its present activities drastically reduced. Finally, it would further harden the position of those who had so far refused to support certain activities financed from the regular budget. Measures of budgetary constraint, though commendable, must therefore be taken only as a last and absolute necessity and only to a limited extent.

52. The problem related to the positions of principle held by certain countries was more difficult to resolve. The experience of the past 10 years had indicated that, although the General Assembly had the power to assess contributions, it lacked the means to enforce the collection of dues. That reality had been brought home to everyone during the 1964 crisis over Article 19 of the Charter. It was regrettable that certain delegations should have decided on a policy of non-payment for those items which they disliked in the Organization's budget. Such a policy disturbed the delicate balance of the United Nations budget and introduced discordant elements which might threaten the very life of the Organization. His delegation, however, shared the optimistic view of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that there appeared to be no



country which wished to push the Organization to the brink. On the contrary, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations all Member States had pledged to keep the Organization in existence and to strengthen its role in many fields of activity. That should reinforce the resolve to find an over-all solution to the current financial crisis. The course adopted by the Secretary-General, namely the search for a solution through diplomatic negotiations, was a sound one, and his delegation hoped that the efforts made in that sphere by the Secretary-General and Mr. Hambro would bring about a solution before long.

53. Concerning the level of the budget as proposed by the Secretary-General and modified by the Advisory Committee, he noted that the order of magnitude upon which the Fifth Committee was asked to pronounce each year was a deceptive concept unless viewed within the context of circumstances over which the Secretary-General had no control. The initial estimates for 1972 stood at some \$207.7 million, or 8.1 per cent more than the gross appropriation for the current financial year. But of that amount, only 0.8 per cent represented real growth. The Secretary-General expected the final estimates to reach \$215 million, or some 12 per cent above the gross appropriation for 1971. Still, the element of real growth would hardly exceed 1 per cent. That was disturbing since, whatever the exact share attributable to inflation, it could not be denied that the Organization was reaching a point where inflation would become the major factor in new expenditure each year. There was a need therefore to strike a reasonable balance between the resources required to meet inflation and those required to enable the Organization to fulfil its political, economic and social role in the world.

54. As to the authority responsible for deciding the level of budgetary resources which the General Assembly should consider and approve, he observed that under Article 100 of the Charter the Secretary-General and his staff "shall not seek or receive any instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Organization". In drawing up the budget estimates, therefore, the Secretary-General must exercise his own judgement and not act under the influence of any Member State or group of Member States however powerful financially they might be, as several delegations had emphasized at the twenty-fourth session during the general discussion on the budget estimates for the year 1970. While it was recognized that the major contributors to the budget were particularly concerned at the ever-increasing expenditures of the Organization, the financial burden which the small countries had to bear was just as great. It should be the entire membership that should determine, by common agreement, the amounts to be paid. That method was the only one which could take account of the views of all Member States and which would not be open to the suspicion that political ends were being served. The United Nations should not countenance blackmail of any kind and must seek to avoid the kind of difficulties in which the ILO had recently found itself.

55. Turning to a number of important issues upon which his delegation intended to present detailed comments at a later stage, he stressed the importance of the Secretary-General's report on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities and expressed

the hope that the Fifth Committee would examine the report in depth within the context of its budgetary implications. He recalled that his delegation, supported by the delegation of India, had requested additional information on the subject, and it hoped the information would be made available in good time. It was of the view that the role of public information could not be over-estimated and that programmes in that area should be the subject of constant review to ensure that there was no duplication of efforts, overlapping of activities, or waste of resources. In that respect, the various organizations in the United Nations system should pool their efforts and resources in order to achieve optimum results.

56. His delegation hoped that the discussions on the Joint Inspection Unit's report on documentation, the report on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General's mock-up of a programme budget would add significantly to the current efforts to reform the procedures of the General Assembly, reduce the cost of documentation and improve the budgetary process in the United Nations. However, none of the proposals the Fifth Committee would discuss would bring a satisfactory solution to all those problems. Thus, in the case of programme budgeting, the experience of Member States and specialized agencies with such budgeting had not been one of unqualified success, and that might have contributed to the conservative posture of the United Nations. It was true that programme budgeting was not a panacea, and it was possibly less so for the United Nations than for the specialized agencies. However, the present system employed in the United Nations to establish the programme and budget certainly needed urgent reform. Whether or not programme budgeting provided the means of solving the existing problems, one thing was certain: no solution along programme lines would succeed unless it was tailored to the nature and requirements of the United Nations itself, was understood and respected by all the Members of the Organization and was whole-heartedly supported by the Secretariat. The Secretariat would play a central role in the exercise, for programme budgeting was in the final analysis more a question of administrative planning and management than of budgeting in the classical sense.

57. On the question of electronic data processing, he shared the concern expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 45 of its first report concerning the establishment of the International Computing Centre at Geneva. The United Nations, WHO and UNDP were apparently still the only partners in the Centre—indeed they were the founders. He hoped that the Secretary-General's report would indicate progress in the Centre's use by the United Nations family. Otherwise there would be no justification for authorizing more extensive expenditure on the Centre.

58. Lastly, with regard to the construction plan for Headquarters, he deplored the fact that, despite the General Assembly's decision authorizing the Secretary-General to undertake an \$80 million project with funds from the United Nations, UNICEF, UNDP and two other sources, and although UNICEF and UNDP had agreed to participate in the financing, the project had not got under way. It should be mentioned that other countries, including developing countries, had assisted the United Nations and its



family of organizations with accommodation facilities either free of cost or at a minimum charge. The arrangements envisaged in resolution 2618 (XXIV), though generous, were not unique. The way in which the matter had been pushed forward and then simply brushed aside was surely not in the best tradition of courteous diplomacy. It

was to be hoped that the recent turn of events would not force the Organization to curtail its programme by putting a complete freeze on new staff resources.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8428 and  
Corr.1, A/8446, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/  
1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/  
1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3,  
E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) said that the growth of the budget over the past 25 years had proved the United Nations to be a viable and dynamic Organization, capable of adjusting to increasing and ever-changing demands. The growth of the budget was a result of the steady enlargement of the Organization's membership and its expansion of the activities in the economic and social field. It also reflected intensified international co-operation and accelerated efforts to promote the development of the developing countries. It was, however, essential to ensure that the United Nations was not saddled with unreasonable expenditure and that its administrative structure was sound. He was convinced that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was a wise guide in that respect.

2. Since economic and social activities now took up about half the budgetary funds of the United Nations—and even larger amounts from extra-budgetary sources—it was logical to review the form of presentation of the budget and the process of deciding priorities within the means available. Such a review should help to effect a change-over from the present process of organic but to some extent uncoordinated growth to one of controlled growth. Another object would be to present the budget in the form of a document intelligible not only to experts but to anyone seeking a better understanding of the functioning of the United Nations. The budget, in fact, represented the means by which the objectives of Member States were translated into positive action, and exact information on that point would promote better moral and financial support for the United Nations, the urgent need for which was clearly reflected in the financial crisis which had plagued the Organization for many years.

3. His delegation had repeatedly expressed its disappointment that the voluntary contributions which Denmark and a few other Member States had made some years earlier in an attempt to restore the Organization's solvency had not been matched by other countries. But it was quite obvious that the United Nations could not carry out its tasks in the

political, economic and social fields without the necessary resources. It was true that the question was one of principle. But in the present plight, Member States must forget their differences and show generosity and magnanimity in a collective effort to restore the solvency of the Organization in the interest of all Members and, in particular, in that of the developing countries. His delegation therefore welcomed the efforts being made by the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, and by the Secretary-General to find a solution to the present difficulties and wished them success in their endeavours.

4. He stressed the great importance of the question of the form of presentation of the budget, and noted that a transition to programme budgeting was already under way. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's suggestion on that question and noted that the Special Committee on Rationalization of Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly had not deemed it proper to take any decision concerning the organizational aspects of programme budgeting because the matter was still under consideration.

5. He also attached great importance to United Nations information policies and activities, in particular, those of the Centre for Economic and Social Information. One of the functions of the Office of Public Information was to support private information agencies, such as United Nations Associations in Member States. That aspect of its work had assumed wider dimensions with the rapid increase in United Nations membership and the growing need for dissemination of information about United Nations activities. A clearer budget in respect of those Office of Public Information activities was needed.

6. Finally, he commended the Joint Inspection Unit for its reports on documentation and the rationalization of the procedures of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, which made highly stimulating reading.

7. Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland) expressed surprise that the Secretariat, having spontaneously suggested that its initial proposals for the 1971 estimates should be reduced by \$7 million, was now asking for supplementary funds amounting to over \$3 million for that year. He recalled that the Financial Regulations of the United Nations provided that the Secretary-General could submit supplementary estimates only in exceptional, unforeseeable circumstances. On several occasions a number of delegations had spoken against the abuse of that rule. In practice, the Secretariat requested supplementary funds every year for expenditure which it would have been easy to foresee. In his delegation's opinion, supplementary requirements, if and when

they were necessary, should be covered first of all by savings made from regular budgetary appropriations, by giving priority to the most urgent items of expenditure and deferring the less urgent ones.

8. His delegation was seriously concerned at the considerable increase in the proposed expenditure for 1972. That increase had originally been estimated at 8.1 per cent, but in view of the supplementary funds requested, it might be as much as 11 to 12 per cent, as indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406). His delegation found that increase unacceptable. It also noted with concern, although with understanding, the growing impatience of the main contributors to the budget of the United Nations with the steadily increasing rate of growth of expenditure in recent years, which might lead to a further deterioration in the Organization's financial situation. He recalled in that connexion that Poland ranked twelfth among those contributors.

9. His delegation was strongly opposed to the intention expressed by the Secretary-General in the statement he had made at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376) of including in the revised estimates for 1972 provision for establishing the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The decision of the General Assembly on that highly controversial question was by no means certain, for many States were against the proposal. Consequently, the Secretariat should not prejudge the General Assembly's decision. The Secretariat's position was all the more surprising in that in the same statement the Secretary-General had spoken of the financial implications of the proposals that might be adopted by the Assembly. The Fifth Committee should ponder very seriously the financial implications of the establishment of such an office, for the heavy expenses involved would adversely affect the Organization's already very difficult financial situation.

10. For some years, there had been an "escalation" in the alarming words used by the Secretariat to describe that situation. The word "insolvency" used by the Secretary-General in his statement before the Committee to describe the present financial crisis would seem exaggerated. His delegation believed that the crisis stemmed from the attempts to include in the Organization's budget a number of illegal items, including the United Nations Emergency Force, the United Nations Operation in the Congo, the United Nations Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and the Memorial Cemetery in Korea. Many countries, including Poland, did not recognize those items of expenditure, for the decisions on which they were based had been taken in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The present crisis did not apply to the current financing of activities foreseen in the Charter.

11. On the other hand, many countries, including Poland, had repeatedly drawn attention to the very rapid growth of the regular budget and its adverse consequences both for Member States and for the Organization itself. Experience had shown that, far from improving the Organization's financial situation, excessive increase in the budget had only worsened the situation. Many countries, notably the developing ones, had serious difficulties in paying their rapidly increasing contributions to the United Nations

budget and as a result had fallen into arrears with their contributions. That, of course, did not make the Organization's financial situation any easier.

12. His delegation had stressed on many occasions that it was indispensable to adopt a more realistic and comprehensive approach to the problems of United Nations budgetary policy and to evaluate in a more critical way the functioning of the Organization's administrative machinery. When programmes were formulated and budget estimates prepared account should be taken, *inter alia*, of the capacity of each Member State to pay, so that the increase in the budget of the United Nations and its specialized agencies would not exceed the increase in the capacity to pay of Member States. Since the growth in national income was one of the basic indicators of the increase in a country's capacity to pay, the growth of the United Nations budget should not exceed the average rate of growth of the national income of Member States over a given period. The average growth of national income of all Member States in recent years had amounted to between 6 and 7 per cent per annum—or between 4 and 5 per cent *per capita* of the population—whereas the rate of growth of the United Nations budget over the same period had been twice as fast.

13. His delegation believed that the Secretariat had a very important role to play in improving the financial situation of the United Nations and was convinced that Member States could count on its co-operation. In the interests of efficiency and economy, it proposed that the number of posts in the Secretariat should be kept at the 1971 level for at least one year, pending the completion of the survey undertaken by the Administrative Management Service. It would also be appropriate to review existing manpower resources every three or five years and the Secretariat, before requesting new posts, should draw upon reserves within existing resources by ensuring greater efficiency and redeployment of staff.

14. The financial situation of the United Nations could also be improved by a more systematic approach to the question of priorities, better financial discipline, better co-ordination of the activities of different organs and organizations of the United Nations system, by reducing documentation and improving the process of preparing documents, by limiting to the indispensable minimum costly United Nations staff travel to distant countries.

15. He attached particular importance to reducing the volume and cost of documentation, and thought that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on that subject (see A/8319 and Corr.1) deserved special attention. With regard to recruitment policy, he believed that strict application of the principles stated in the Charter and, in particular, the principle of the equitable geographical distribution of posts would help to ensure the high level of efficiency and integrity required of the Secretariat. He also attached special importance to the work of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and hoped that the results of its work would contribute to establishing new and more rational criteria for fixing the salary scales. He expected that the new form of budget presentation would facilitate budgetary co-ordination between the United Nations and its related agencies. He concluded by stating that the Fifth Committee should

devote special attention to United Nations information policies, and activities since economies could be made in that field.

16. Mr. WEI (China) said that his delegation had carefully studied the statements made before the Fifth Committee by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1376) and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/1377). His delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General that greater discipline and restraint were required in setting up new organs and new programmes with financial implications and believed that the Secretary-General should be able to exercise judgement on programme priorities and decide on the content of the budget estimates. His delegation believed that the Fifth Committee should scrutinize the budget estimates very carefully in order to ensure that resources were effectively utilized and administered.

17. With regard to the financial crisis of the Organization, it recalled that pledges had already been made at the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the General Assembly to help find a permanent solution for the Organization's financial difficulties and hoped that the negotiations now in progress would have a successful outcome and that the Secretary-General would be able to pass on to his successor a healthy financial situation.

18. With regard to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, his delegation was concerned by the constant increase in expenditure, particularly staff costs and related expenses. It was not sure that the additional posts and reclassifications requested for 1972 were really necessary or that the Organization's present resources were being used in the most efficient manner. The reason given for the request for more staff for 1972 was the need to cope with expansion in the fields of trade and social and economic development. His delegation was in favour of such expansion but not the over-development of the Secretariat. It wondered whether that growth of the Secretariat was beneficial to the world community and whether the increasingly cumbersome and complex machinery of the Organization would be able to respond effectively to the tasks ahead.

19. His delegation would have liked to see experts from outside the Organization participate in manpower utilization surveys started three years previously at the request of the Fifth Committee, in order that the recommendations made could be fully independent, and it believed that the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee should make a careful examination of the survey findings and make their own recommendations to the General Assembly.

20. One of the other factors contributing to the increase in expenditure was the proliferation of meetings and documentation. At the previous session, his delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 2732 (XXV) on documentation and resolution 2632 (XXV) on the rationalization of the procedures of the General Assembly and hoped that those matters would be thoroughly discussed at the current session.

21. It wished to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the Chinese translation of many important reports was published too late for his Government to study them

carefully and issue the necessary instructions, and it requested the Secretary-General to do his best to have that unfortunate situation rectified. It also wished to draw the Secretary-General's attention to the need for adequate Chinese language services for the conference to be convened to amend the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, for the second United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names and the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The Secretary-General was surely aware that Chinese was one of the five official languages. To save his delegation from submitting the same request every time, he might perhaps issue instructions that, when international conferences were organized by the United Nations, Chinese should be included among the language services. His delegation was glad that some improvement had been made during the year with regard to Chinese interpretation and translation, but it was still concerned with the backlog in the translation of documents into Chinese and the insufficient use of Chinese typewriters.

22. His delegation would be obliged to withhold support from the programmes and activities of the Office of Public Information unless it improved the dissemination of information from the United Nations to the Chinese people, including the voiceless millions under Communist rule.

23. His delegation had always adopted a reasonable attitude to budgetary questions of the United Nations and would support the reductions in expenditure recommended by the Advisory Committee.

24. Mr. BUSH (United States of America), exercising his right of reply, said that at a previous meeting some delegations had reported rumours that certain members of the United States Congress had tied future payment of United States contributions to the United Nations to the outcome of the debate on the representation of China. It was true that some members of Congress had expressed concern to the President of the United States, and to himself, about the proposal to expel the Republic of China from the United Nations. Some had even said that that proposal might have repercussions on United States financial support for the United Nations. Those views, however, were not the views of the United States Government. In his country, as in many others, the Constitution made provision for the separation of powers: Congress was not subject to the Executive and, like the Executive, it was not bound by the opinions of any member or group of members. That constitutional system sometimes caused feelings of frustration, but it had been operating in the United States for more than 180 years, because the Executive and Congress both took the wishes of the American voters into consideration. He did not know how the discussion on the representation of China would end, although he was optimistic, nor did he know how the American people would react if the Republic of China was expelled from the Organization, but he wished to assure the Fifth Committee that President Nixon's Government was not threatening the United Nations or preparing financial reprisals of any kind. On the contrary, his Government wished to see the United Nations extricate itself from the precarious financial situation in which it now found itself. Nevertheless, his country did not propose and, in his opinion, did not have to meet the deficit of the United Nations single-handed; it was

prepared to help meet the deficit if other countries also provided substantial assistance.

25. In saying that, he did not mean to diminish the objections of the United States to some of the administrative and budgetary policies and practices of the United Nations. His delegation would continue to work for improvement in that respect. But it was hard to deal with current business when one was on the verge of bankruptcy. Neither did he ignore the serious economic difficulties in the United States. Nevertheless, the United States Government put such a high value on the economic, technical and humanitarian work of the United Nations that it was making every effort to keep up the level of its voluntary contributions—nearly always the largest ones—to United Nations programmes. Some of its contributions had in fact risen dramatically to meet certain problems, above all the tragic situation in East Pakistan and among the Pakistani refugees in India.

26. It was obvious that the Organization's success, its very life, depended on the support of all its Members. The United States was prepared to pay its share of the cost of activities but urged Member States whose capacity to pay had steadily increased in recent years to shoulder a larger share of the burden.

27. The people of the United States had backed the Organization from the start in its search for peace, had believed in it and hoped for its success—and the United States people still felt that way.

28. Naturally there were political differences among Members. Some of the differences were profound, and the United Nations was there to see that Members might air them. But those differences must never be allowed to overshadow the common interest of all Members in the search for peaceful solutions. One should be glad that there was a fruitful clash of words instead of a mortal clash of arms. The Members of the United Nations should co-operate to safeguard their common interest, financially and in every other way. The United States was prepared to do a great deal for the future of the United Nations, if others co-operated with it.

29. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) observed that the Secretary-General had presented for 1972 an initial gross budget of \$207,721,500 which might rise to \$215 million. That represented an increase of 12 per cent over the previous year which did not necessarily reflect an expansion of United Nations activities but rather was largely due to rising costs.

30. The essential concern in the Fifth Committee must be the Organization's financial situation, which, as the Secretary-General had pointed out, was very bleak: the regular budget was short by \$65 million, of which \$33.5 million was uncollectable; the Working Capital Fund was empty, and the \$50 million on peace-keeping operations remained unsettled. His delegation felt that cuts in forthcoming appropriations would not in themselves serve to restore solvency. The problem arose essentially from objections of principle on the part of some Member States. It would be wrong to attribute the causes of the Organization's financial

difficulties to expansion of activities. Growth in activity was an index of vitality and represented an investment in the quest for universal stability and progress. In fact, the total United Nations budget was insignificant compared to the expenditures of the major Powers on armaments. His delegation welcomed the holding of the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972: the expenditure on it would help to solve an urgent international problem.

31. Being a developing country, Kenya had always attached special significance to the part of the budget relating to technical programmes. There was to be a change in the use of the appropriation under that item: on the basis of certain criteria, efforts would be directed at a selected group of 30 countries, from which his had been excluded. His delegation wished to underline the reservations it had stated in the matter in the Economic and Social Council.

32. As other speakers had observed, only three bodies—the United Nations, UNDP and WHO—were participating in the International Computing Centre at Geneva, contrary to what had been envisaged by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. His delegation echoed the view of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 45 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, that other United Nations bodies should review their policies on the utilization of the Centre. If no progress was made, the Fifth Committee should reappraise the situation.

33. Net expenditure of the Office of Public Information would come to \$9.7 million in 1972. Information must be one of the important tasks of the Secretariat inasmuch as the world community had to be informed in depth on what the United Nations was doing. His delegation was greatly interested in the proposed regional production bureau at Addis Ababa and regretted that the information which the Advisory Committee had requested in order to reach a decision had not been produced (*ibid.*, para. 53). Kenya attached great importance to the work of the Office of Public Information because the latter had a role to play in the eradication of oppression in southern Africa and elsewhere.

34. He wished to reaffirm his country's faith in the United Nations and its desire to co-operate to the full extent of its ability in the solution of the Organization's problems.

35. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that in the statement he had made at the previous meeting he had cited remarks reported in *The New York Times*, a newspaper with an established reputation not only in the United States but also abroad. If that newspaper were to provide the same publicity for the words of explanation given at the current meeting by the United States representative, it would help to dispel misapprehensions.

*[The Committee then heard, in connexion with agenda item 75, statements by the Chairman, the Controller and the United States representative (see paras. 53 to 59 below). Following these statements, the Committee resumed consideration of agenda item 76, beginning with the first reading of the budget estimates.]*

*First reading (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3)*

## SECTION 6. PAYMENTS UNDER ANNEX I, PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 5, OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS; HOSPITALITY (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

36. The CHAIRMAN recalled that in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), the Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$159,000 under section 6. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended that the appropriation requested should be approved.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 157) for an appropriation in the amount of \$159,000 under section 6 was approved in first reading by 73 votes to none.*

## SECTION 19. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

37. The CHAIRMAN said that in the budget estimates (A/8406), the Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$1,594,800 for the activities of the International Court of Justice. In its related report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 313), the Advisory Committee had recommended that the appropriation should be reduced by \$35,000, making a total of \$1,559,800.

38. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the appropriation requested to cover anticipated expenditure under chapter I (Salaries and expenses of members of the Court) did not take account of a possible increase in the salaries of judges. In the near future, the Fifth Committee would have before it a report on that question. In paragraph 308 of its report, the Advisory Committee, noting that the Court had as yet no indication of further matters which might come before it in 1972, had expressed the view that there was room for a reduction of \$25,000 in the estimate for temporary assistance. Since then, a further matter had been submitted to the Court—the Appeal Relating to the Jurisdiction of the ICAO Council (*India v. Pakistan*)—and the Secretary-General was presenting a revised estimate of \$40,000 to cover the expenses of the Court, partly because of the new matter that had come before it. Members of the Fifth Committee might agree that the Advisory Committee's recommended reduction of \$25,000 in the estimate for temporary assistance was reasonable.

39. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that, in paragraph 308 of its report, the Advisory Committee had noted that the estimate of \$95,000 for article (ii) (Temporary assistance) of chapter II was \$44,400 more than the amount approved for 1971. The Advisory Committee had proposed a reduction of \$25,000 in the estimate. The activities of the International Court of Justice did not seem to justify the increase in the provision for temporary assistance. His delegation was convinced that there were sufficient permanent staff members to enable the Court to deal with the matters before it, and it therefore opposed any increase in the provision for temporary assistance. His delegation hoped that other members of the Committee would support it in that respect. At the

present stage, however, if there was no substantive debate on the question, his delegation would request a separate vote on chapter II of section 19.

40. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had made it clear in its report that it had been concerned at the increase in the estimate for temporary assistance, since it had come to the view that the figure could be reduced by \$25,000. That recommendation was perhaps too cautious, but since the Court now had another case before it, the Advisory Committee considered that it should not recommend any further reduction.

41. Mr. TURNER (Controller) pointed out that the estimate for temporary assistance covered the recruitment of interpreters and translators, whose number was insufficient when the Court considered a case. It should also be recalled that since May, the Netherlands guilder had been up-valued 8 per cent in relation to the dollar.

42. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Controller for his explanation, but said he would like to have information on the number of permanent posts at the International Court of Justice.

43. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that there were 16 permanent Professional and higher posts, and 18 permanent General Service posts filled locally.

44. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that the Court's permanent staff should be sufficient to enable the Court to dispose of its work satisfactorily, and requested a separate vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation for reduction of \$25,000 in the estimate under chapter II, article (ii).

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 308) for a reduction of \$25,000 in the estimate under section 19, chapter II, article (ii) was approved by 66 votes to 10, with 2 abstentions.*

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (ibid., para. 313) for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,559,800 under section 19 was approved in first reading by 81 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

## INCOME SECTION 2. FUNDS PROVIDED FROM EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

45. The CHAIRMAN said that, in his budget estimates, the Secretary-General had submitted an estimate of \$2,499,400 for that section for 1972. The Advisory Committee had approved that amount.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 323) for an estimate of \$2,499,400 for income section 2 was approved in first reading.*

## INCOME SECTION 3. GENERAL INCOME (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

46. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General's estimate for income section 3 amounted to \$4,943,000.

The Advisory Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General's estimate for that section be increased by \$10,000.

47. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) asked under what section the income from catering services was included.

48. The CHAIRMAN replied that that income was included in income section 4.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 330) for an estimate of \$4,953,000 for income section 3 was approved in first reading.*

#### INCOME SECTION 4. REVENUE-PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

49. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General had submitted an estimate of \$3,178,400 for that section. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the estimate be increased by \$35,000, to \$3,213,400.

50. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) recalled that the representative of Ghana, at the previous meeting, had proposed the establishment of a lottery to augment the funds of the Organization and, although it was too early for the proposal to have been studied in depth, he wished to know the first reaction to it.

51. The CHAIRMAN said that the proposal made by the representative of Ghana had not yet been studied.

52. Mr. GUPTA (India), noting that the catering services left much to be desired, requested that the Secretariat submit a detailed oral report on all the activities of those services.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 338) for an estimate of \$3,213,400 for income section 4 was approved in first reading.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 75

##### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971

*[See note following paragraph 35 above.]*

53. The CHAIRMAN said that the documents concerning agenda item 75 had not yet been circulated, and he invited the Controller to make a statement of introduction on the supplementary estimates.

54. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the General Assembly had approved appropriations for the financial year 1971 in a total amount of \$192,149,300. The revised estimates amounted to a total of \$194,838,900, representing an increase over the initial estimates of \$2,689,600, or 1.4 per cent. Estimated income other than income from staff assessment, approved at \$10,114,000, was now estimated at \$9,955,500, a decrease of \$158,500. Income from staff assessment would amount to \$22,300,000 rather than the approved estimate of \$21,663,000, representing an increase of \$637,000. The resultant effect on the assessment level for 1971 would have been an increase of \$2,211,100.

55. The revised figures for 1971 would ultimately depend on the course of action decided on by Member States in respect of the project for new construction and major alterations at Headquarters, as approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session. In a separate report on that subject (A/C.5/1381), the Secretary-General had advised Member States that it had not proved possible to achieve the total financing plan which had been envisaged as a prior condition to the initiation of the project. The General Assembly might wish to consider alternative financial arrangements, but it was clear that the amount of \$2 million appropriated for 1971 as a first instalment towards the total provision of \$25 million to be made under the regular budget would not be utilized that year. Accordingly, if that amount were to be surrendered, the revised appropriations required would be reduced to \$689,600. After deducting revised estimates of income, the net effect on the assessment level would be \$211,100. The Secretary-General would attempt to meet those net additional requirements from resources made available to him under the budget as a whole. On that basis, the additional appropriations requested would be reduced to \$473,500, an amount to be fully offset by the increase in income.

56. It was possible that further appropriations would be necessary if the United Nations adopted measures for the maintenance of peace and security or for assistance in cases of natural disaster. It might also be necessary, in the light of the experience gained in the next few months, to report to the Assembly before the close of its current session the net effect on United Nations expenditures of currency variations since August and, possibly, to request that some provision be made to cover the additional commitments which might be involved.

57. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation had been glad to hear the Controller's statement and would have no further objection to the Committee's beginning its consideration of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 in first reading.

58. He pointed out that the elimination of a supplementary appropriation, which earlier had been estimated at \$3 million, would leave the gross appropriation level for 1971 at \$192.4 million. That should be the base upon which the Secretary-General calculated the percentage increase in order to arrive at a budget level for 1972.

59. He proposed that during the first reading of the budget estimates the Secretary-General should review the estimates in order to present to the Committee before the second reading, such proposals for modification as appeared appropriate in the light of the financial position of the Organization and the desirability of encouraging a solution of the deficit problem. The Secretary-General should take into account, for example, the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations concerning documentation and the efforts of the United States Government to achieve wage-price stability, which should serve to check rising expenditure in New York.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

60. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) asked when the report of the Special Committee on the Rationali-

zation of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly would be circulated. He also recalled that he had raised a number of questions concerning the activities of the Office of Public Information, and hoped that the Committee would not consider the report on that question until it had the information requested.

61. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that the Committee would

not consider the report on the Office of Public Information until the pertinent information had been transmitted to it. The report on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly would be circulated during the coming week.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3, E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that his delegation was much concerned by the financial crisis facing the Organization and the increase in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972—the dominant topics in the Fifth Committee's debate. In the statements they had made at the 1427th meeting of the Committee, the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1376) and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/C.5/1377) had given a very disquieting account of the Organization's financial situation, which was a serious threat to its future. No one could remain indifferent to statements to the effect that the Organization was "in a state of near and hopeless insolvency", that "the Working Capital Fund of 40 million dollars has been fully utilized" or that "more than 50 million dollars of debts incurred for past and present peace-keeping operations remain unsettled", as the Secretary-General told the Committee. He could not believe that any delegation would wish to see the Organization pushed "to the brink" and welcomed the efforts of the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, and of the Secretary-General to find a solution to the crisis. A clear-sighted approach was called for, however, and it would be wrong to establish a cause and effect relationship between the re-establishment of the Organization's solvency and the increase in the budget for the 1972 financial year. The causes of the two developments were not necessarily the same and neither, therefore, was their solution. The problem of solvency was, in essence, one of management and all Member States could help the Secretariat to improve the administrative machinery of the Organization.

2. To break the deadlock, action at two levels might be envisaged. First, the Secretary-General should, as far as possible, endeavour to contain expenditure within the limits of approved appropriations, avoid the excessive growth of certain components of the United Nations system—for example, the use of consultants—and avoid the proliferation of bodies whose usefulness remained to be demonstrated. Second, Member States should arrange to

pay their contributions as promptly as possible. It was disturbing that, on 30 June 1971, only one third of the contributions due for the financial year 1971 had been paid. The prompt payment of contributions would undeniably have eased the Organization's financial situation. Nevertheless, such measures were no more than palliatives which, while they might improve the financial situation in the short-term, could not overcome the basic problem. The over-all situation could only be improved by a thorough structural reform of the Secretariat.

3. The budget estimates for the financial year 1972 represented an increase of some 12 per cent by comparison with those for 1971. His delegation was seriously concerned by an expansion of such magnitude and considered it essential that there should be some reduction. It was equally concerned for the efficiency of the Organization and formally proposed that the establishment of new posts should be subject to careful scrutiny and that the role of Member States in that connexion should be decisive. His delegation was also exercised by the undue increase in the use of consultants. It fully agreed with the concern voiced by the Advisory Committee and believed that the reductions it recommended should be made under the appropriate budget section. At the same time, his delegation commended the Advisory Committee's endeavours to reduce the volume of documentation, which plagued the Organization.

4. While his Government was opposed to all waste and to any unjustified increase in various sections of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, it was fully prepared to respond to any reasonable and constructive request for financial support.

5. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, the budget estimates exceeded \$200 million. The 1972 estimates were to reach the total of \$215 million, or 12 per cent higher than the 1971 appropriation which amounted to \$192 million. If that rate of growth remained unchanged, it could have undesirable and dangerous consequences. His delegation could not but enter serious reservations concerning such increases, particularly since the Organization's budget was growing much faster than the national incomes of Member States and faster than the increase in living costs in the world in general and in the United States, where the Headquarters of the United Nations was located.

6. There were serious elements of contradiction in a situation in which, on the one hand, the Organization was insolvent and, on the other, Member States were requested to approve an increase of 12 per cent in budgetary expenses. Surely, the logical remedy for insolvency was to reduce, not increase, expenditure. The main reason for the

regular growth in the United Nations budget was the constant expansion in Secretariat staff. Reference to the table in paragraph 31 of the Advisory Committee's first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates showed that, once again, provision was made for new posts—155 for 1972. Automatic annual increases in the number of posts could not be supported. His delegation was convinced that with the introduction of more effective management and working methods, better utilization of existing staff and the transfer of staff to priority tasks, the duties of the Organization could very well be performed with existing staff. So far, the Administrative Management Service's surveys of manpower utilization and deployment had not resulted in the expected reduction in staff, but his delegation was convinced that the surveys to be made in 1972 would be more successful in that respect. Progress in restricting documentation and reducing the number of periodical publications would result in savings and, in that connexion, attention should be paid to the interesting suggestions made by the Joint Inspection Unit in documents A/8319 and Corr.1 and A/8362.

7. As in previous years, his delegation objected to the inclusion in the budget of chapters for items contrary to the principles of the Charter. He was referring, in particular, to section 12, chapter I, United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea; section 17, chapter III, United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea; and section 12, chapter III, United Nations bond issue. In addition to its significant political effect, elimination of those chapters would result in a decrease in the Organization's budget. His delegation also objected to the inclusion in the regular budget of the technical programmes item under section 13. Technical assistance funds should be provided exclusively under UNDP, to which many countries made voluntary contributions and through which his country had provided technical assistance to a number of developing countries. Technical assistance would be improved if all resources were concentrated in UNDP.

8. In conclusion, he expressed reservations concerning the Organization's approach to budgetary questions. Under the existing system of budget preparation, all requirements in the various fields of activity, whether important or less important, were accumulated and individual demands, with their inherent tendency towards automatic growth, aggregated, the final result being a mechanical sum of the subtotals. The correct approach would be to work within planned estimates and, by establishing a list of priorities, ensure that the most important tasks for which the Organization had been founded were carried out. Programming and planning would save the Organization from budgetary crises and ensure that it functioned smoothly and well.

9. Mr. MURRAY (Guyana) said that the Organization's state of near insolvency was but a reflection of the wide gap between the assertion of very laudable international principles and the will to convert them into a programme of action. Certain solutions had been offered to overcome the financial crisis: the Secretary-General had hinted at the possibility of retaining budget surpluses and income from revenue-producing activities in a special account or in the Working Capital Fund (see A/C.5/1376) and a monthly United Nations lottery had been suggested. Apart from

creating a bad precedent, such measures would leave unanswered a very important question of principle. In that connexion, he recalled that the Brazilian representative had pointed out (1428th meeting) that although Brazil had strong reservations concerning a particular item in the budget of IAEA, it had not failed to pay its assessment in full to that body. That was a highly commendable attitude reflecting the true spirit of internationalism. His delegation wished the former President of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, every success in his efforts to solve the Organization's financial difficulties.

10. The restoration of financial solvency did not necessarily imply budgetary restraint. A budget in which contributions and income were exactly equal to expenditure was neutral in its effect on the current financial situation. A surplus budget would improve the financial situation only if the surplus was retained by the Organization as indicated by the Secretary-General. His delegation had referred to the disadvantages of that approach. On the other hand, a deficit budget would obviously aggravate the present financial dilemma. In the circumstances, an expanded neutral budget seemed to be the best course. It would do nothing to worsen the financial situation and would make the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade easier of achievement—an important consideration if the faith of the developing countries in the Organization was not to be undermined. Yet, unless assessed contributions were paid promptly, what had been conceived as a neutral budget would become a deficit budget.

11. The Secretary-General had indicated (A/8406, forward, para. 4) that 7.3 per cent of the increase in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 was due to factors, such as inflation, over which he had little or no control. It was therefore important to note that a mere 0.8 per cent of the increase represented a net real expansion for 1972. Considering that a 2.3 per cent real increase for the preceding financial year had been deemed inadequate by the developing countries and that the average real growth rate of the regular budget between 1950 and 1968 had been 5 per cent, it was obvious that the initial estimates for 1972 reflected a budgetary standstill. His delegation could only endorse the comment of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that the time was fast approaching when budgetary expansion would be a mere reflection of the cost of inflation. If, as had been suggested, the regular budget was restricted to the average rate of growth of national income of Member States, even the cost of inflation would not be met adequately. Such a situation placed undue pressure on developing countries which played no part in creating inflation. Furthermore, real achievements during the Second Development Decade were jeopardized—as was clear from sections 15 and 16 of the budget estimates. On the advice of the Advisory Committee (see A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 250), the estimates under section 15 had been limited to an increase of some 16 per cent by comparison with the previous budget. However, 9 per cent of that increase was directly attributable to the third session of UNCTAD, due to be held in 1972. The remaining 7 per cent was not enough to sustain UNCTAD's activities in 1972 at the 1971 level. As to section 16, the Advisory Committee had stated (*ibid.*, para. 255) that the bulk of the 7.4 per cent increase over

the 1971 appropriation was accounted for by higher staff costs and general expenses and the Secretary-General himself had said (A/8406, para. 16.7) that additional resources had not been requested for the expansion of general substantive and administrative support activities and services under that section. The implications for the Second Development Decade were ominous; the budget estimates inadequately reflected the spirit and needs of the second year of that Decade. It was to be hoped that, as the Secretary-General had said (see A/C.5/1376), a policy of budget restraint for 1972 would make it easier for many Governments to lend the kind of voluntary financial support that was so sorely needed.

12. Expansion should take place within the context of carefully determined and clearly defined goals and objectives, with a rational order of priorities. His delegation did not, therefore, oppose the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed increase in established posts within UNCTAD should be reduced from 14 to 10. It hoped that the manpower utilization surveys by the Administrative Management Service would result in a more rational use of existing resources.

13. At the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had commended the recommendations of the Bertrand report on programming and budgeting in the United Nations system (see A/7822).<sup>1</sup> It hoped that the related report of the Secretary-General and the mock-up of the estimates on a programme budgeting basis would be so presented that the Fifth Committee could act decisively during the current session. His delegation continued to believe that a system of programme budgeting, accompanied by medium-term programming and a biennial budget cycle, was essential for the rationalization and improvement of the programming and budgeting system of the United Nations.

14. Another important issue before the Committee concerned the future organization of the work of the Office of Public Information. An important policy decision had to be taken concerning the extent to which the Office of Public Information involved itself in promotional activities. In his view, the Office should no longer confine itself largely to the reporting of debates but rather should be actively engaged in, for example, promoting and publicizing decisions relating to the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade and the numerous and overwhelming majority decisions on decolonization, particularly with regard to southern Africa.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3)*

SECTION 5. TRAVEL OF STAFF (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1366)

15. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that section 5 covered only part of the total cost of the travel of United Nations staff and that provision was made for travel under other sections, for example, section 15, relating to UNCTAD and section 16, relating to UNIDO. The Advisory Committee had recognized the Secretary-General's efforts to keep the increase under section 5

within bounds and realized that he had been faced with an increase in fares. Nevertheless, it had felt that more could be done to eliminate less essential journeys such as those undertaken largely for representational purposes. Consequently, it had recommended a reduction of \$50,000 in the budget estimates (A/8406) and one of \$5,000 in the revised estimates (A/C.5/1366). The explanations relating to the latter recommendation were to be found in paragraphs 16-19 of the Advisory Committee's related report (A/8408/Add.1). Drawing attention to paragraph 155 of the first report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2), he said that the Advisory Committee had wondered whether the travel of staff on home leave by sea might not be regarded as a relic of the past. However, it had not recommended any reduction in that connexion because the arrangements were of long-standing and would need careful review.

16. Mr. GUPTA (India) drew attention to item (x) under paragraph 5.5 of the budget estimates which provided for travel to New York and return and subsistence of a staff member from each of the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut to service a meeting of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. He had served on the CPC and did not recall that such staff had hitherto travelled to New York to service its meetings. Was it envisaged that such staff would attend that Committee's meetings in 1972 and, if so, on what grounds? He further inquired as to the policy pursued by the Secretariat with regard to current fare reductions by airlines in respect of various types of air travel.

17. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division), replying to the representative of India, said that it had been felt in the Secretariat that the absence of representatives of the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut at meetings of the CPC was a gap which should be filled, particularly in view of the need in future for information on the implementation of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning programme evaluation.

18. As to the question of air travel, the Secretary-General endeavoured to take advantage of reductions in air fares wherever possible. He pointed out that the reductions on the North Atlantic route would take effect only from 1 February 1972. It was Secretariat policy, applied in all cases, to take advantage wherever possible of the various kinds of reductions offered, as, for example, that for a stopover of between 21 and 45 days.

19. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had taken note of the Advisory Committee's observations on section 5 in paragraphs 155 and 156 of its first report. The Advisory Committee had, in particular, drawn attention to the expense of travel of staff by sea even though other more economical travel facilities were available. The costs incurred were extremely heavy and the Advisory Committee had rightly raised the issue. A further cause of expense were so-called official journeys not dictated by any real need and frequently not related to the execution of any specific tasks. In the same connexion, he drew attention to travel undertaken for representational purposes on the initiative of individual departments of the Secretariat. His delegation welcomed the Advisory Commit-

<sup>1</sup> Mimeographed, 3 December 1969.

tee's proposals for reductions in expenditure under section 5 and was prepared to support them. Nevertheless, the travel of staff on official business still occasioned very heavy expenditure and the current appropriation exceeded that for the preceding financial year, when the Advisory Committee had recommended, at the twenty-fifth session, the elimination of non-essential travel. Having regard to the Indian representative's reference to reduced air fares, his delegation was convinced that further reductions under section 5 would be possible and, for that reason, would abstain when the section was put to the vote.

20. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia), referring to the question of staff travel on home leave by sea, asked whether the Secretary-General had reviewed the question, as suggested by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 155 of its first report.

21. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) replied that the present entitlement of travel by sea dated from the early days of the Organization and, since it also applied to staff of other organizations in the United Nations system, consultations might be necessary. While the Secretary-General had taken note of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, he would await the results of the study in depth currently being undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit on the question of travel.

22. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that, since in the matter of staff travel the Secretary-General was in almost total control over the situation, he should look very carefully at the possibility of making further economies, which could then be reflected in the second reading of the budget. In view of the competitive improvement carried out by the airlines in the services they provided, economy-class air travel presented no hardship and with certain rare exceptions should be used in all cases of both official and unofficial travel. He, too, felt that the continued use of sea rather than air travel should be very carefully reviewed.

23. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation doubted whether the Secretary-General would be able to submit revised estimates based on comments made in the Fifth Committee with regard to the budget estimates for 1972, although those comments would certainly guide him in the preparation of the budget estimates for 1973. In the case of air travel, for example, he did not see how the Secretary-General could revise his estimates to take account of fare reductions that were being announced almost every month.

24. He wished to put two questions. One referred to the policy governing the travel of staff to meetings; his concern was not related to the expense of such travel, but rather to the effect on administrative and managerial leadership if senior officials were to be absent for long periods; he wished to know what the policy of the Secretariat was in that respect, and what action was taken to ensure that the selection of officials for travel to meetings was as wide as possible. The other question concerned the handling of travel bookings; he wondered how many agents the United Nations had, how they were chosen, and whether any inquiry had been made into the process of selection; was the Secretariat in fact satisfied that it was being given the best service?

25. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) noted the Director of the Budget Division's statement that the question of travel was currently being studied by the Joint Inspection Unit, whose recommendations would be taken into account by the Secretary-General when he prepared the budget estimates for 1973. Should the Committee therefore refrain from approving an increase in the estimates for 1972?

26. Mr. GUPTA (India) said he supported the views expressed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. However, the comments and requests for guidance made by the Indian delegation should not be taken to imply that it was asking for revised estimates.

27. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay) asked what classes were involved in the case of staff members travelling on home leave by sea.

28. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division), in reply to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, said that officials were chosen in the following way: when the Secretary-General was informed of the agenda of a meeting, the relevant departments of the Secretariat at Headquarters, at Geneva and in the regional economic commissions were requested to propose staff members to attend that meeting. Their proposals were then submitted to the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs who, after consultation with the services concerned, including the Office of the Controller, designated the member or members to attend the meeting. Decisions were thus taken centrally, in the light of all the problems involved.

29. Replying to the representative of Uruguay, he said that whether there were two classes of travel or three, second class travel was chosen.

30. He suggested that the Committee approve the figures recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General would certainly take account early in 1972 of the savings to be realized from lower air fares.

31. Mr. TIMBRELL (Director of the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that the United Nations had originally had its own travel office for three or four years, until it had been decided that travel business should be placed in the hands of a travel agency. A study of agencies had accordingly been conducted on a world-wide basis, and one of the two agencies having the necessary facilities had been selected. That agency had continued to serve the United Nations since the early 1950s. A number of reviews undertaken since that date had invariably indicated that no other agency could demonstrably perform a better service at less cost. The agency, located as it was in the Secretariat building, paid rent to the United Nations, defrayed its own costs and, on behalf of the United Nations, settled bills presented by carriers. While the contract with the agency had previously been renewed for three-yearly periods, the latest renewal had been for a two-yearly period to enable the Secretariat to examine any new ideas that might arise out of the forthcoming Joint Inspection Unit report.

32. The Secretary-General had on a number of occasions sought the assistance of ICAO and the International Air

Transport Association in concluding an arrangement whereby the carriers would pay directly to the United Nations the fee which they now paid to the travel agency. The efforts of the Secretary-General had, however, proved fruitless, and the matter had rested there for the past three years.

33. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) drew attention to the costs of travel of staff to service the meetings of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development cited in document A/C.5/1366. In the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 17 of its related report (A/8408/Add.1), he wondered whether it was necessary for a total of four staff members to travel from New York to Geneva to service those meetings.

34. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that, having accepted the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General would make every effort to reduce the number of staff members travelling to Geneva.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 156, and A/8408/Add.1, para. 26) for a total appropriation in the amount of \$2,626,100 under section 5 was approved in first reading by 59 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

#### SECTION 8. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1366)

35. The CHAIRMAN said that the further views of the Advisory Committee would be taken into account during the second reading. If there was no objection, he would invite the Committee to vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation that a sum of \$1,021,400 should be appropriated under section 8 for 1972.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 77, and A/8408/Add.1, para. 26) for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,021,400 under section 8 was approved in first reading by 75 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND RENTAL OF PREMISES (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1366)

36. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General had, on the budget estimates (A/8406), proposed an initial appropriation in the amount of \$6,688,000. The Advisory Committee, in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 183), had recommended a reduction of an amount of \$135,000. Further, the Secretary-General had presented, in document A/C.5/1366, additional estimates of \$12,000 under the section. The Advisory Committee had recommended (A/8408/Add.1, para. 26) approval of that amount. The total amount recommended by the Advisory Committee was therefore \$6,565,000.

37. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's recommended reduction related to additional expenses envisaged in connexion with the new

wing at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. During its visit to Geneva in the spring of 1971, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the building project was running well behind schedule. It had therefore felt justified in recommending the reduction referred to in paragraph 182 of its first report.

38. Mr. NAUDY (France), referring to the antepenultimate sentence in paragraph 9.7 of the budget estimates, asked what the realty taxes were, under what conditions they were applied, whether they applied to all premises rented by the Organization and whether it would not be possible for the Organization to obtain exemption from such taxes.

39. Miss FORCIGNANÓ (Italy), referring to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee's comments on the building project for the Palais des Nations, asked how far behind schedule the project was and whether the reduction recommended was adequate.

40. Mr. TIMBRELL (Director of the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), referring to the questions raised by the French representative, said that the same questions had been raised in the Advisory Committee and a legal opinion on the matter had been obtained. The situation arose from the fact that the standard lease agreement in New York City provided for an increase in rentals if there was an increase in realty tax. The Secretariat had asked the Legal Counsel whether it would be possible for the Organization to obtain exemption and had been told that since the tax was not levied directly on the United Nations but on the owner of the building, there was no way to avoid the increased rental.

41. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the question raised by the Italian representative, said that the Advisory Committee estimated that the Palais des Nations building project was at least six months behind schedule. In view of that delay, the reduction by half of the lump-sum provision referred to in paragraph 182 of the Advisory Committee's first report did not seem unreasonable. By its very nature, the estimate was a rough one but the Advisory Committee did not consider that it would be reasonable, at the present stage, to go beyond the 50 per cent reduction recommended.

42. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that a detailed progress report on the Palais des Nations building project was expected shortly and would be made available to members of the Fifth Committee.

43. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan), referring to the questions raised by the French representative, said that the matter should be examined more thoroughly. It should be possible for the Organization to obtain the necessary exemption.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 183, and A/8408/Add.1, para. 26) for an appropriation in the amount of \$6,565,000 under section 9 was approved in first reading by 74 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

SECTION 10. GENERAL EXPENSES (A/8406, A/8408  
AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1366)

44. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General, in the budget estimates (A/8406), had proposed an amount of \$5,867,000 for section 10 in 1972. The Advisory Committee had recommended (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 190) a reduction of \$67,000 in that figure, giving an appropriation of \$5,800,000. In revised estimates contained in document A/C.5/1366, the Secretary-General had proposed an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3,000. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of that amount (A/8408/Add.1, para. 26). The appropriation figure before the Committee was therefore \$5,803,000.

45. Mr. WEI (China) said that his delegation was concerned about the increases in the estimates for communications. Some countries granted preferential rates for communications to diplomatic bodies. Perhaps the Secretary-General could explore the possibility of obtaining preferential treatment for United Nations communications from countries hosting United Nations agencies.

46. Turning to the expenses listed for the Office of Public Information, he said that his delegation had not been informed whether that Office had increased or decreased its dissemination of information to the Chinese, including the

voiceless millions under Communist rule. It was not satisfied with the Office of Public Information's over-all arrangements for the dissemination of information to the Chinese and unless there was an improvement would not be in a position to support the estimates for the Office's activities in 1972. It would be constrained to abstain if the section was put to the vote as a whole.

47. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that it would not be possible, until the promised detailed report on computer operations was available, to ascertain whether the figures given for computer services in the estimates would remain unchanged. In the circumstances, it would be difficult for his delegation to vote in favour of the section.

48. The CHAIRMAN said that the statement made by the representative of China and the reservation of the United States representative had been noted.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 190, and A/8408/Add.1, para. 26) for an appropriation in the amount of \$5,803,000 under section 10 was approved in first reading by 64 votes to none, with 13 abstentions.*

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-2,  
A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8466, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/  
1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/  
1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380, A/C.5/  
1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3, E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), noting that the Organization was "in a state of near and hopeless insolvency", said that since the United Nations was mankind's best instrument for ensuring international peace and security, immediate action must be taken to prevent the emergency from becoming a disaster and to save the Organization for the important tasks which it alone could perform. It was to be hoped that the serious efforts of the President of the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, Mr. Hambro, to restore the solvency of the Organization would be matched by other Members. In that connexion, the Government of New Zealand was to be congratulated on having agreed to waive credits due to it for peace-keeping operations.
2. Integral to the maintenance of peace was the need to build peace. Accordingly, it was essential that every effort should be made to ensure the success of the Second United Nations Development Decade and provide a sound economic basis for living conditions in which man's peaceful endeavours throughout the world could thrive and flourish. Budgetary allocations for economic and social development projects should not, therefore, be reduced. The regional advisory teams had proved their worth and it was to be hoped that objections to the additional estimate in the amount of \$1.8 million would not have the effect of restricting that very constructive and valuable form of international assistance.
3. The rising cost of running the Organization must be taken into account in any analysis of the budget estimates. Inflation, the siting of the Organization's premises in expensive centres and the pressures of meeting emergencies were factors which served to increase the cost of maintaining the Organization. Since New York was an expensive city, his delegation had welcomed the trend towards decentralization in locating the Organization's main premises, but it was concerned by the significant rise in construction costs in Geneva and wondered what steps were being taken to remedy the situation.
4. In view of the enormous potential usefulness of computers to the United Nations system, the International Computing Centre had been established in Geneva, despite criticism from certain quarters, for common use by members of the system. It was disturbing to learn, therefore, that a number of specialized agencies were not using the Centre but were, instead, expanding their own computer facilities. His delegation looked forward to an analysis of the actual and potential cost and production factors of the Centre.
5. His delegation viewed with sympathy the suggestion that, instead of being refunded to Member States, the excess of \$511,688 for the financial year 1970 should be used to replenish the Organization's steadily diminishing cash reserves; it had recommended its Government to give favourable consideration to the idea. The Secretary-General was to be congratulated on having achieved a surplus.
6. If account was taken of factors over which the Secretary-General had no control, an increase of under 10 per cent in the budget was modest, even negligible. It should be viewed against the fact that the United Nations budget was comparatively small, being less than two thirds that of the New York City Fire Department for the 1971-1972 fiscal year.
7. The Secretary-General's warning about the consequences of the growth in the volume of documentation and the increase in the number of United Nations conferences must be heeded.
8. As a logical sequence to the self-examination which had characterized its twenty-fifth anniversary, the Organization appeared to be moving into a period of revision and change. A committee had been set up to deal with the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee would shortly have to deal with the question of a possible change from target to programme budgeting and from an annual to a biennial cycle, in certain parts of the system at least. In that connexion, his delegation looked forward to presentation of the mock-up of the proposed new format.
9. The Organization was also examining the potential for change in its basic approach to personnel problems, including recruitment policy, allocation of duties and salary levels. It was to be hoped that the results of the first complete survey of the Organization by the Administrative Management Service would become available in 1972. His delegation looked forward to the release of M. Bertrand's study of United Nations personnel policy and hoped that the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System would be ready in time to be considered by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.



10. The possible replacement of the Secretary-General and the increase in the Organization's membership were other factors which pointed to change and were bound to have a considerable impact on the administrative and budgetary functions of the Secretariat. Governments must be prepared to give the Secretary-General the assistance he needed in order to strengthen his office and effect the reforms that must be made if the Organization was to remain an effective element in international affairs. The Secretary-General's duties had been defined in Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations and he should not be subjected to pressure beyond that inherent in the office itself.

11. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as a founder-Member of the United Nations, the Soviet Union insisted that the Organization should function properly in order effectively to implement the principles of the Charter. At its twenty-fourth Congress, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had paid special attention to the role to be played by the United Nations in rebuffing aggression and international lawlessness and in implementing the decisions taken by the international community with respect to the elimination of colonialism and the policy of *apartheid*. It had also stressed that, in conformity with the Charter, the United Nations should observe the principle of universality in its membership.

12. As the Soviet Foreign Minister had stated in the general debate in the General Assembly on 28 September 1971 (1942nd plenary meeting), the Soviet Union was anxious that the lofty ideals of the Organization should be achieved through peaceful relations between States. To that end, it had introduced several proposals for the strengthening of international peace including, in 1971, proposals relating to a disarmament conference, a treaty on the moon, and implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security. It followed that, in considering the Organization's budget, his delegation proceeded from the premise that funds should be used mainly to find effective ways of carrying out the basic tasks mentioned in the Charter. The Soviet Union would never allow its contributions to be spent on third-priority goals or on activities contrary to the principles of the Charter.

13. It had frequently been argued that budgetary stabilization would result in a reduction of economic and social development projects. That argument was fallacious and there was no reason to think that increases in the Organization's budget or staff would result in the elimination of neo-colonialism, would rid the developing countries of foreign monopolies or protect them from the harmful consequences of currency crises in the capitalist world. Indeed, as the Secretary-General had stated in paragraph 23 of his foreword to the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406), the Organization was neither able nor obligated to encompass each and every economic and social factor confronting the community it sought to serve and was therefore compelled to be selective. Attempts to convert the Organization into a world government to deal with all manner of questions simultaneously would merely undermine its authority. A more sober approach to budgetary questions was necessary. Unfortunately, no radical steps to curb budgetary increases had been taken. Preliminary estimates for 1972 amounted to \$207,721,500, repre-

senting an increase of more than \$15 million over the total appropriated for 1971. Yet even that was not the limit. In his statement at the 1427th meeting to the Committee (A/C.5/1376), the Secretary-General had said that, taking account of the decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and those which might be adopted by the General Assembly at its current session, the total level of requirements for 1972 might be \$215 million. Under no circumstances could his delegation agree to such an exaggerated increase in the budget.

14. Despite the fact that his delegation, and others, had often advocated postponement of activities not covered by the budget estimates, the Secretary-General persisted in submitting supplementary estimates every year. The supplementary estimates for 1971 amounted to almost \$3 million and there was no guarantee that they would not have increased further by the end of the year. No country wishing to strengthen the Organization could possibly endorse such budgetary practices.

15. It would be seen that the major share of the budget was earmarked for expenditure on staff. The Organization's staff already numbered more than 11,000 and yet there was a request for 308 new posts with the possibility, according to paragraph 36 of the first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, of even greater increases. Such increases in staff were bound to be a source of concern to States, particularly those bearing the major burden of the Organization's budget. Contrary to expectations, the Administrative Management Service's survey had not helped to raise productivity or to rationalize the work of the Organization and, thereby, to reduce the number of staff. The Service had merely given blanket approval to requests for further staff. Indeed, it was interesting to note that the greatest number of proposed new posts were for units which had already been surveyed. Thus, the Service had not done useful work; rather, in itself, it constituted a further expansion of staff. Furthermore, his delegation had reasons for doubting the Service's impartiality, for some of its recommendations had seemed to be aimed at decreasing the number of posts occupied by specialists from the Soviet Union and expanding the functions of those occupied by nationals from Western countries. Since, although 75 per cent of the Organization had already been surveyed, there was no evidence of any staff cuts, it was reasonable to wonder what proportion of the budget had been used by the Service and whether there was any justification for its existence. It might indeed be advisable to replace the many audit and control bodies in existence within the Organization, the cost of which amounted to more than \$4 million, by a single intergovernmental body with broad powers. Every year, new posts, which had been approved on a provisional basis, were automatically transformed into permanent posts. In addition, the cost of temporary staff was constantly rising. The only effective way to control such excessive increases in the Secretariat would be to decide to maintain established posts at their existing level and not to add any provisional posts in 1972.

16. The financing of staff expenses was closely linked to general staff policy. At previous sessions, his delegation had mentioned shortcomings in that policy. Certain Western



countries were always over-represented on the staff while countries from other parts of the world were not afforded the opportunity to fill their quotas. Of the 35 Professional staff members recruited in August 1971, for example, 10 were from the United States, 4 from the United Kingdom but only 1 from the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union could not continue to allow its lawful rights to be ignored. His delegation considered, therefore, that the Secretary-General should be instructed to prepare, for submission to the Fifth Committee at the twenty-seventh session, a special report indicating how the guidelines for the recruitment of staff for the Secretariat of the United Nations, approved by the General Assembly in resolution 2736 (XXV), were being applied in practice, in particular the principle that in the recruitment of staff for posts subject to geographical distribution preference should be given to qualified candidates of under-represented countries. Perhaps the time had come to consider the question of periodic reviews of permanent contracts in the light of that principle and of abolishing the permanent contracts for staff members of P-5 and above.

17. Although it was already in debt for previous construction, the Organization had embarked on further building programmes in several parts of the world, to such an extent that the sums spent on the construction programmes and on the amortization of loans amounted to more than \$100 million. In view of the complicated financial situation of the Organization, a programme of such magnitude was neither rational nor justified. There was absolutely no justification for allocating further funds for the New York building programme and his delegation proposed that funds already earmarked for that programme should be transferred to construction projects in other places. In that way, the estimates for building projects could be reduced.

18. His delegation also proposed that the Advisory Committee should be requested to prepare for the Fifth Committee a study on the effects on the Organization's budget of the recent currency crises in the Western world.

19. As it had done in the past, his delegation would refuse to accept responsibility for illegal decisions implemented in violation of the United Nations bond issue, the so-called United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and would not contribute to such expenditure. He reiterated its view that technical assistance activities should not be financed from the United Nations regular budget. Under Article 17 of the Charter, the regular budget was to be used exclusively for administrative purposes and not for technical assistance activities, which should be financed on a voluntary basis. Member States were not bound by such expenditure and his Government would pay in national currency that part of its contribution which related to technical assistance. His delegation could not ignore attempts to expand the financing of technical assistance from the regular budget and would vote against any decision designed to further such attempts.

20. In certain sections of the budget, there was evidence of a lack of discipline and control in the expenditure of funds. In some cases, recommendations designed to ensure savings had been ignored, and over-expenditure had resulted. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's

views concerning intolerably excessive expenditure on non-essential travel by Secretariat officials, the lack of control in the use of expensive means of communication, unjustified expenditure on expensive equipment and the lack of financial discipline in the computer field. It drew the attention of the leadership of the Secretariat to such anomalies and hoped that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure strict economy. At the same time, his delegation proposed that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit to the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly a report on the measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee relating to economy in the disbursement of funds. It was firmly and systematically pressing for the liquidation of unjustified and superfluous expenditure from the budget. On the other hand, it supported expenditure which served to advance the main goals of the Organization under the Charter in such areas as international peace, security and disarmament, considering such expenditure to be justified, even in cases where the competent administrative organs recommended a reduction in such expenditure. Thus, it did not agree with the Advisory Committee which, in paragraph 85 of its first report, recommended that the General Assembly should consider whether verbatim records should be continued after 1971 for the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. Having regard to the importance of the tasks facing that Committee and the character of its work, the provision of verbatim records should be continued. His delegation was, however, prepared to consider any proposal which would ensure the normal continuance of the work of the Conference while eliminating expenditure.

21. The Secretary-General, at the 1427th meeting, had told the Fifth Committee that the Organization was "as of now, in a state of near and hopeless insolvency". His delegation shared fully the Secretary-General's concern about the administrative and financial situation of the United Nations and was prepared to work to improve the situation by enforcing economy in the expenditure of funds. Consequently, it had agreed to participate, and had assumed a constructive position, in the current consultations organized by the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro. Regardless of the outcome of those consultations, the Fifth Committee and the United Nations as a whole must adopt a new attitude towards the Organization's budgetary problems, putting an end to waste and to expenditure incurred in violation of the principles of the Charter. The responsibility for overcoming the Organization's current situation rested not with a restricted group of countries but with all States, including the developing countries. Member States must show more realism with regard to the Organization's capabilities and should not expect unlimited increases in programmes. Unfortunately, not all States had shown such realism. Various delegations had expressed concern at the growth in the budget, which had resulted mainly from increases in administrative costs and documentation. He could not, therefore, conceal his surprise that certain other delegations had not only failed either to oppose the growth in the budget and staff or to urge economy, but, on the contrary, had displayed considerable irresponsibility in agreeing to even greater expenditure. Those delegations had even argued that economy would not contribute to the solution of current difficulties and proposed that the Secretary-

General should be given *carte blanche* in determining the size of the budget. Such an approach would be quite unreasonable in any circumstances but was particularly so in the current situation.

22. He urged the committee to adopt a realistic attitude and to concentrate on the establishment of a régime of strict economy within the Organization, failing which unimaginable further difficulties would be encountered.

23. Certain speakers had endeavoured to create the impression that while they were ready to help overcome the financial problem, responsibility for its solution lay with other delegations. He wished to make the situation quite clear: his delegation was prepared to help overcome the financial difficulties on the basis of the understanding achieved at the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup> His delegation had taken a most active part in the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, which had been established at that time. The decisions taken at that time by the Assembly to overcome the Organization's financial difficulties applied equally to all States. The reason why those decisions had not led to a solution of the difficulties was that certain States had departed from the principles approved by the Assembly regarding the participation of all countries in taking the necessary measures, on the grounds that they were bound by the consensus reached. That was the crux of the problem. In the consultations organized by Mr. Hambro, his delegation had stated its willingness to participate in overcoming the financial crisis on the basis of the consensus reached at the nineteenth session.

24. To stabilize and rationalize the financial situation of the Organization, his delegation proposed the following. First, that the budget of the United Nations should exclude any allocation for interest on and repayment of the unlawful United Nations bond issue related to the operations in the Congo and the Middle East, which were contrary to the Charter, together with expenditure on the so-called United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. Second, that earmarkings for technical assistance activities should be excluded from the United Nations budget and incorporated in the UNDP budget. Third, that the present staff of the Secretariat should not be increased, and posts becoming vacant should be filled only by staff from under-represented countries in order to ensure equitable geographical distribution; all temporary and provisional posts should be eliminated and gradually, as contracts expired, the number of permanent posts should be reduced without jeopardizing the work of the Organization. Fourth, that any expenditure on new construction in New York should cease, no new funds should be allocated for that purpose, and allocations already approved should be diverted for construction in Geneva and elsewhere. Finally, that strict discipline and control should be introduced in the disbursement of funds under all sections of the budget.

25. It was essential that those measures should be adopted if the current situation was to be normalized. Without

them, efforts to liquidate the Organization's debts would prove ineffectual.

*Mr. Woschnagg (Austria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

26. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that he had listened with interest to the USSR representative's exhaustive statement, which had drawn attention to various administrative and financial shortcomings in the Secretariat. He had been apprehensive when, the previous year, the Secretary-General had described the Organization's parlous financial situation and, as a result, had himself undertaken an independent study of the Secretariat.

27. The major Powers could be said to be penny wise and pound foolish, spending as they did untold thousands of millions of dollars on defence despite the fact that the United Nations was the best guarantor of world peace. The Organization was, however, far from perfect. His study had shown that, in recent years, it had been suffering from a malaise which had affected a large segment of its staff. In the late 1940s and in the 1950s the staff had had a sense of commitment to the United Nations. As the membership of the Organization had grown, new staff had been recruited on the basis of quotas, having regard to equitable geographical distribution. During the preceding 15 years, however, pressure had been exerted on the Director of Personnel to accept candidates for posts even where they were incompetent and lacked the qualifications essential in an international civil servant. Member States had not always been discriminating in their selection of candidates and political nepotism had been in evidence. Even where the Director of Personnel had found candidates unsuitable, representatives of Member States had doggedly pressed their candidacy. At one stage, the imposition of candidates had become so serious that aspirants for posts had had to obtain prior permission from their Foreign Ministers. In some cases, when an unsuitable candidate was finally rejected by the Office of Personnel, a new candidate was presented who was just as unacceptable. As a result of such pressures, the Secretariat had eventually grown into an unwieldy bureaucracy.

28. He had discussed the situation with Secretariat staff at all levels and had concluded that almost all departments of the Secretariat were overstaffed, a situation due in no small measure to the fact that, regardless of the need for staff members, Member States had pressed for the employment of their nationals; there was a lack of discipline in the Secretariat inasmuch as, except when the main organs were in session, most Chiefs of Sections could not find sufficient work for their subordinates, a situation conducive to laxity; many members of the Secretariat who could otherwise do excellent work simply did not have sufficient work—as was evident from the numbers of staff who flocked to the cafeteria—many staff members had told him that they would prefer to work instead of passing time; a deep feeling of insecurity was prevalent due to the fact that less than one half of staff members were employed on a permanent basis, the remainder being on fixed-term contracts, on probation or transients in New York City; the Secretariat had, in some instances, become a refuge for staff who were at odds with their Governments or, unwilling to return home after completion of a tour of duty with their permanent mission, sought employment within the Secre-

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1331st meeting, paras. 3-4.

ariat. Some staff so recruited were doubtless efficient, but a number of them did not fit into the bureaucratic mould.

29. To remedy the situation which his study had revealed, there must be a simultaneous retrenchment and reorganization of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General would be well advised to appoint to that end a committee of three unpaid individuals, having the necessary administrative skills and preferably recruited from inside the United Nations system. The aim should be to organize the Secretariat on a sound and efficient basis comparable to that of any ordinary business undertaking. The committee of three would be responsible for recommending measures designed to streamline the organization of the Secretariat and to eliminate 5 per cent of the staff each year for at least three years. At the same time, there would be no new posts created and recruitment would be reduced to a minimum. It would be for the Director of Personnel to ensure that only the most suitable persons were appointed to posts in the Secretariat and that political pressures played no part in such appointments. In addition, a pool of secretaries should be made available on an interdepartmental basis to replace the present system under which secretaries were allocated to individual Chiefs of Section who could not always find sufficient work for them. Unless the measures which he had proposed were adopted, there was a danger that the United Nations would finally become insolvent.

30. Nor was it only in the Secretariat that economies could be made. In 1961, by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), the United Nations had established an anti-colonialism committee, with 17 members, which had since become the Committee of Twenty-four—the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Over the past decade, it had done all it could do, and now might well be abolished. Alternatively, it could be retained on a much more restrictive basis, with only 12 members and no missions abroad save in exceptional circumstances, when it might send only two or three of its members. The time had come to say frankly that that Committee had been able to achieve very little in affecting the policies of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Portugal. The problems concerned might more usefully be dealt with through direct negotiations between the United Nations and the countries concerned, or through the good offices of certain States that had economic and political ties with those countries and were more likely to be able to negotiate solutions. Broadly speaking, the Committee of Twenty-four could do little except engage in propaganda, which yields no results, other than to harden the attitude of the colonial Powers in Africa. The Security Council was the only body able to take positive action. The Committee of Seventeen, as it had been originally, had emerged after the civil war in the Congo, when the Western Powers had warned the socialist States against extending their influence in black Africa. The Soviet Union had wisely decided that any confrontation might lead to a large-scale war, and had accordingly pressed for the establishment of the Committee of Seventeen as an alternative means of supporting the various independence movements in black Africa.

31. Another body of a similar nature was the United Nations Council for Namibia. It was no more than a sop to

the countries of Africa, as he himself had warned them in 1966. It would have been possible to get one foot in the door, as it were, by appointing observers and joint administrators at that time, but the United States had suggested establishing the Council for Namibia, and the mandate over South West Africa had been terminated. That had been a grave error. The Council for Namibia had accomplished absolutely nothing; the best course would be to give it the task of negotiating, through third parties, with South Africa, to arrange for a United Nations Co-Administrator of the Territory.

32. Another area where economies might be made was the holding of seminars. The human rights seminars and the advisory services in human rights were mainly of academic value, and involved needless travel and subsistence costs. Human rights could best be promoted by education, and UNESCO should therefore be asked to propose programmes for that purpose; if UNDP were asked to do the same in educational and other fields, much money could be saved. A new post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had been proposed, at a cost of \$300,000, a sum that would soon swell to millions as the grievances poured in. Yet many of those who were complaining in the Fifth Committee about the level of United Nations expenditure were supporting that proposal. Again, the United Nations was concerning itself with matters that might well be handled by other bodies. The definition of aggression, for example, could well be referred to the International Court of Justice and the Sixth Committee could then discuss the Court's views. Similarly, there should be closer co-ordination between the International Law Commission and the Court.

33. If the new approach he had suggested to the problems of Namibia, the Portuguese colonies and Southern Rhodesia was adopted, and if Portugal could be persuaded to accept a trusteeship status for its Territories, and became their Administering Authority, the Trusteeship Council might be reactivated, and economies could be made by pooling its services with those of the Fourth Committee.

34. He had been informed by the Controller that UNDP had its own separate budget; but although that budget was not before the Fifth Committee, UNDP was an organ of the United Nations system, and he therefore considered suggestions might be made in the Fifth Committee about how UNDP could economize. He suggested that any Member State that asked UNDP's aid should pay the initial cost of appointing an expert, from the United Nations or elsewhere; to report on its development possibilities. The cost of recruiting an expert, with an assistant, for three or four weeks could not exceed \$20,000, and any country should be able to afford that sum. On the basis of the preliminary report, UNDP could send one or more experts to make surveys at the pre-investment stage, and the costs would be paid by the United Nations in the form of a loan to the developing country, to be repaid if the investment yielded profits. If there were no profits expected, then a fixed premium could be charged for all reimbursable funds, so that projects could be undertaken without any loss to the United Nations. The same could apply to projects originating in the Second Committee.

35. There was room for considerable decentralization and consolidation of United Nations Headquarters. New York

City had several drawbacks as the site of Headquarters. The many demonstrations for innumerable causes, sometimes leading to clashes with the police, did not provide the right background for free and fearless expression of views by delegates in the General Assembly. He therefore suggested that the Security Council, the First Committee, the Special Political Committee and the Fourth Committee should all conduct their business in Geneva where, moreover, the necessary services could be supplied more cheaply. The remaining Committees of the General Assembly could continue to work in New York, and in addition, a number of other bodies could be moved in the Headquarters buildings, such as UNDP, UNICEF and others, instead of their having to pay for very costly rented accommodation in New York.

36. Another suggestion he wished to make was that UNITAR might be abolished. It cost \$1.5 million a year and produced no real results. Perhaps if the economies he had suggested were made, the resulting savings might help to found a United Nations university at which students from every part of the world could study questions of international import.

37. He believed that it would not be possible to deal satisfactorily with the United Nations deficit unless a United Nations Trust Fund was established. A committee should be formed, from among international bankers, lawyers and heads of corporations, together with two or three executive officers, to establish such a fund, to the value of \$500 million to \$1,000 million. The income would be used to make good budget deficits and promote sound United Nations projects. No doubt the international bankers and lawyers concerned could make their clients aware of the need to support the United Nations in order to preserve

peace, rather than risking the fearful losses involved in large-scale wars.

38. The suggestions he had made involved considerable retrenchment and reorganization of the United Nations administration to make it more efficient, especially by the eliminating of "dead wood". Professional staff lacking in motivation could be retired early, without undue hardship, as was sometimes done by national Governments. The decentralization and consolidation of Headquarters he had proposed would both save money and enable political issues to be debated in a calmer atmosphere.

39. He could not agree with the Soviet representative concerning the bond issue. The Saudi Arabian Government had thought it should contribute to underwriting the issue, not because of any profit involved, because the 2 per cent paid would quickly be eroded by the effects of inflation, but rather because there had been no other way of keeping the Organization going. It had wanted a peaceful solution, rather than threats that a major Power might be expelled from the United Nations.

40. As for new construction, he agreed with the Soviet representative that there should be no new building and no extension in New York City, where violence and lawlessness made it impossible to work in peace. In general, the aim of his statement had been to show that even the present unsatisfactory situation of the United Nations could not be maintained much longer, and that drastic measures were therefore needed if the Organization were to survive as a dynamic instrument.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-2,  
A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, A/C.5/  
1362, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/  
1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380, A/C.5/  
1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3, E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) welcomed the statements of the Secretary-General in paragraphs 22 to 30 of his foreword to the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406) on improving United Nations methods and procedures, in particular, the reference to the institutional framework. One of the main problems was where the two distinct aspects of programming and budgeting should come together. The situation in that respect had remained virtually unchanged since the founding of the Organization; although financial implications were now taken into account in respect of new programmes, in the main the total United Nations programme and the total budget were not brought together until the General Assembly debates. The increased decentralization made it all the more difficult to maintain a close relation between the work programme and the budget. As, in practice, many decisions on programmes and priorities were taken early at the lower levels of decision-making—for example, in the Committee on Natural Resources—it was hardly possible at the General Assembly level to examine the various programmes as parts of an organic whole, and thus to make sound decisions on the optimal use of the limited United Nations resources. Obviously, decisions on programmes must be brought together with budgetary planning at an earlier phase and at a lower level than was now the case.

2. At the twenty-fifth session, the Netherlands had suggested (1418th meeting) closer co-operation between the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, so that they could act together and make joint recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly with a view to the possible merging of the two into a single programme and budget committee. There would have to be active participation by the executive organs of the United Nations so that those two bodies could also co-operate closely with the Secretariat, on the pattern that already existed for the Advisory Committee. That would require the strengthening of the Secretariat, and the establishment of a high-level committee for programme and budget review. The Administrative

Committee on Co-ordination should also participate in the consultations. Referring to paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's foreword to the budget estimates, he said he would like to be informed when the high-level review committee would be established.

3. The arrangements outlined might be a first step in the right direction, but there must also be a closer link between the main General Assembly committees concerned with programming and budgeting, the Second, Third and Fifth Committees. Perhaps joint co-ordinating working groups could prepare recommendations on an integrated work programme and budget for the General Assembly. Since decisions concerning programme implementation and those on resource allocation were complementary, the proposed co-ordination was only logical.

4. His suggestions were aimed at trying to make possible, within the existing institutional framework, a more deliberate effort at integrated planning, programming and budgeting through closer interaction between the existing legislative and executive organs at successive levels of decision-making. That was particularly important in relation to implementing the International Development Strategy. Possibly the suggestions might be studied by a group of experts, versed both in modern management techniques and in United Nations programming and budgeting procedures, which could pay particular attention to institutional interaction at the levels of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and which could report to the main General Assembly committees concerned. He would like to hear the views of members of the Fifth Committee on his suggestions, and hoped that informal consultations on them might be held.

5. In deciding on the total budget of the United Nations, a reasonable balance must be struck between the needs for action programmes to meet the objectives of the International Development Strategy and the resources likely to be available. There must be concentration on real priorities in order to avoid a proliferation and overlapping of activities leading to unwarranted expansion of the budget. In principle, the Netherlands accepted the base figure of approximately \$204.5 million given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in his statement at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377). The revised estimates, amounting to an addition of over \$7 million, would be carefully studied by his delegation.

6. The United Nations was at present facing a special problem arising from the marked increase in arrears in payments of assessed contributions. Under the regular budget the unpaid total was over \$65 million, of which at least \$33.5 million must be regarded as uncollectable. The most obvious immediate step to improve the cash position

would be for the normal contributions to be paid as early as possible. With respect to the long-term problem, the Netherlands preferred to await the outcome of the negotiations being conducted by the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, and wished to express its great appreciation of his efforts.

7. Mr. PICK (Canada) said his delegation was deeply concerned by the financial position of the United Nations, now approaching insolvency. It was hard to believe that Member States would allow the Organization to be jeopardized for want of a small fraction of 1 per cent of their combined gross national products. Action to correct the situation should not be further postponed. There was no need for a new committee to investigate the origins of the crisis, which were all too clear. The task at the current session must be to lay a sound financial foundation for a new quarter-century of international co-operation.

8. The financial crisis resulted from three problems: rapidly rising budget levels, a substantial debt due to the unwillingness of some States to contribute to peace-keeping and other costs and the frequent lack of cash to meet current bills. All those problems must be dealt with in order to improve the situation.

9. Some budget increases had been unavoidable because of price inflation, but the budget had expanded alarmingly, especially in view of the current deficit. That expansion must be controlled. Member States must moderate their demands on the Organization and the Secretariat must try, through better management, to get a better return on each dollar spent. Canada had reservations about the appropriation of large additional sums for new programmes until the financial crisis had been remedied, and believed that only new programmes of the highest priority should be approved for 1972.

10. It was gratifying that a surplus of about \$500,000 was available for 1970, and he hoped that a similar sum would be available for 1971. The administration of world-wide programmes by and for those of different languages and cultures was not easy. Nor was it easy to make savings in a budget 75 per cent of which represented staff costs. He appreciated the Secretary-General's acceptance of the cuts recommended by the Advisory Committee and his recognition of the need to make the United Nations more efficient.

11. All Member States were interested in the maximum use of the limited resources available to the Organization, and would be interested in what had been done to implement the 1970 reports of the Administrative Management Service. They would follow with similar interest the results of the recent survey by the Joint Inspection Unit of documentation (see A/8362), and the Administrative Management Service's survey of manpower use in the computer and economic and social units of the United Nations. Those studies should facilitate a more efficient operation.

12. Programme restraint and increased efficiency could minimize rising costs, but they could not solve the financial crisis. The deficit could not be reduced by making cuts in the regular budget. The non-participation of some Member States, for reasons of principle, in certain United Nations activities, especially peace-keeping operations, had led to a

situation constituting a political and not an administrative problem.

13. His delegation welcomed the steps being taken by the Secretary-General and Mr. Hambro to restore the United Nations to solvency without prejudice to positions of political or juridical principle, and hoped the major Powers would recognize the seriousness of the situation and make voluntary contributions to liquidate the deficit so that the United Nations could go forward from a position of financial strength. If the major Powers that had not thus far participated in the financing of peace-keeping operations were to make substantial contributions, he believed that many other countries, including his own, would be willing to follow suit, even though many of them had already, through the purchase of United Nations bonds and voluntary contributions, helped the Organization to avoid bankruptcy thus far. New Zealand had already said it would accept a reduction in the face value of its bonds and would waive its credits on peace-keeping accounts as part of a negotiated package. But no nation could be expected to make further sacrifices if the major Powers refused to take the lead in making substantial voluntary contributions.

14. The cash problem could be solved if Member States would pay their regular contributions at the beginning of the year, as required by the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, which stated in Regulation 5.4 that they were due and payable on 1 January or within thirty days of the receipt of the Secretary-General's pertinent request, whichever was later. At present, some millions of dollars were owing for 1971, which meant a loss of interest and the incurring of borrowing costs, further adding to the deficit. His Government had consistently made provision for its current United Nations contribution in the national budget for the preceding year, and it hoped that other Member States would do likewise. As matters now stood, the prompt payers were penalized by having to pay their share of the interest charges incurred when the Secretary-General had to borrow to meet current expenses.

15. The United Nations must resolve to deal with its financial ailments. If Member States had the will to do so, they would have more reason to expect the Secretariat to exercise restraint and to improve its efficiency.

16. Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia) said that his delegation, after studying the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362) and the first report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972, looked forward to seeing the Secretary-General's report on documentation. He congratulated the Advisory Committee on its efforts to reduce the size of its own report.

17. In the view of his Government, the International Computing Centre at Geneva should be used by all the specialized agencies in that city, as originally envisaged, so as to derive the maximum benefit from it, since otherwise the whole point of the exercise would be lost.

18. The mock-up of a programme budget to be submitted to the Fifth Committee, though it might well shed new light on the United Nations finances, could not in itself solve the financial difficulties. His delegation wished

Mr. Hambro every success in his endeavour to find a solution. As the Secretary-General had said when he introduced the budget estimates at the 1427th meeting (see A/C.5/1376), all forces should be joined to re-establish the principle of collective responsibility. If that was achieved, then the interests of all Member States, great and small, would be safeguarded. It was with that thought in mind that the Ethiopian Government had made the modest contribution referred to in paragraph 7.3 of document A/8322.

19. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that the total budget figure of \$204.5 million proposed by the Advisory Committee and accepted by the Secretary-General represented an increase of about 7 per cent over 1971. That was a reasonable increase, especially as it was due mainly to higher salaries, the rise in the cost of living, and monetary instability. Nevertheless, there certainly was room for further effort by the Secretariat. In any case the revised estimates, amounting to some \$10 million, were regarded by his delegation with grave concern, since they would bring the total for 1972 up to \$215 million, an increase of about 12 per cent over the 1971 appropriations. Unless stricter control was exercised in preparing the estimates, they would eventually exceed the capacity of Member States to contribute.

20. His delegation had noted with interest the comments in paragraphs 27 to 29 of the Secretary-General's foreword to the budget estimates for 1972, and looked forward to seeing the mock-up of a programme budget that was to be submitted shortly to the General Assembly. Programme budgeting alone would not solve the problem; there must also be some structural adjustments and precautions must be taken to ensure a smooth transition from the old to the new system of budgeting. Nevertheless, results with programme budgeting in some specialized agencies had been encouraging, and under that system Member States would not have to approve a series of separate sums representing programmes that were equally imprecise as to their costs and their aims. Programme budgeting would make it easier to estimate the relative value of each department and programme, and would facilitate more selective and rational economies. That was also the view of the Advisory Committee, according to paragraph 28 of its first report. The system would also increase co-ordination among members of the United Nations family and encourage integration of programmes, thus eliminating overlapping and making evaluation of results simpler. It would help to overcome the problems referred to in paragraph 23 of the Advisory Committee's report, and make it easier to work towards the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade. But the Organization must establish a list of priorities with due regard for the present circumstances. When the Secretariat departments and deliberative organs had completed their work, the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee must be able to examine the programmes and make the final rulings after weighing needs and possibilities.

21. Because of its concern for economy and efficiency, his delegation welcomed other reports aimed at reforming existing administrative procedures and practices. In particular, the Joint Inspection Unit reports on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362) and on personnel

(A/8454) seemed to be exhaustive and to contain proposals worthy of consideration; the Unit was to be congratulated on the very useful contribution it had made to efforts to assess existing structural defects and suggest possible remedies.

22. His delegation was alarmed by the constant growth in staff and the tremendous cost it entailed. The budgetary consequences of the proliferation of permanent, provisional and temporary staff and of consultants were formidable and seemed to be attributable to a deplorable laxity. It was to be hoped that the Administrative Management Service surveys would indicate ways of putting an end to excessive increases; by making suggestions for staff transfers and reassignments, the Service should reform structures which were only too ready to cover up their own activities and useless expansion. His delegation would comment on the activities of the Administrative Management Service when they had been completed. In the meantime, however, it had noted the comments on the Service made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 39 and 40 of its first report; indeed, it regarded the whole of the section of the Advisory Committee's report dealing with personnel—paragraphs 29 to 40—as particularly pertinent and instructive. The fact that the profitability of the Administrative Management Service surveys should not be measured simply in terms of staff savings but also in terms of the Organization's efficiency implied that the benefits of the Service's recommendations would be felt in the long-run and should therefore be applied for a trial period. Accordingly, it would be wrong to reject recommendations before they had had a chance to bear fruit. Undue reduction or inflation of the manning tables proposed by the Administrative Management Service, which had been so calculated as to meet future needs without creating jobs, would be particularly regrettable. As the Advisory Committee had suggested, the Administrative Management Service should place more emphasis on productivity which depended, *inter alia*, on such incentives as satisfactory working conditions, a just remuneration and sufficiently attractive career prospects. In that connexion, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel was important because it constituted a complete repertory of all relevant questions, together with wise and intelligent proposals and comments.

23. It was to be hoped that the surveys on personnel would not lose sight of the fact that, if it was to do full justice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, the Secretariat should, in its composition, also reflect the linguistic balance and diversity of cultures which lent the Organization its universal character. France welcomed the steps taken by the Secretariat to bring about a wider dissemination of Office of Public Information documents in French. It was only by feeling completely at home in the United Nations that Member States could participate in, and contribute to, the Organization's work. Every Member State should be able to use the working language of its choice every day and without restriction. His delegation was very interested, therefore, in the language courses organized by the Secretariat and hoped that they would prove effective.

24. The size of the allocations under section 7 for construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises was a cause for concern. They



amounted to \$11.2 million although financing of the work at ECAFE and ECA had been spread over four, not three, years. Furthermore, it appeared from paragraph 161 of the Advisory Committee's first report that financing arrangements for the Headquarters extension project had not been completed. His delegation had already indicated its disapproval of the project and looked forward with interest to the explanations to be supplied by the Secretary-General as a follow-up to the short report in document A/C.5/1381.

25. His delegation endorsed the comments in paragraphs 44 to 46 of the Advisory Committee's first report concerning the reluctance of specialized agencies to use the facilities of the International Computing Centre in Geneva and agreed that it would be ironical if lack of participation by the specialized agencies belied ACC's judgement in the matter.

26. The financial situation of the Organization was such that it was essential to adopt a rigorous and realistic approach to budgetary matters. It was up to both Member States and the Secretariat to introduce more reasonable management practices which, while taking better account of circumstances, were in no way compromise the Organization's principal activities or lower its objectives. Member States must become accustomed to the idea that the Organization could not do everything at once. They should draw up a scale of priorities under which it would be possible, without undue difficulty or delay, to abandon or postpone implementation of certain programmes. That could be done under a system of programme budgeting. Furthermore, States should never lose sight of the financial implications of their decisions. The Secretariat, for its part, should systematically warn bodies of the budgetary consequences of proposed measures and even express its views on their validity from the point of view of the Organization's objectives and any priorities established by other bodies. Staff Members of the Secretariat should observe strict discipline in budgetary matters. Any new Secretariat proposal to be submitted to an intergovernmental body and likely to have significant financial implications should be approved at the highest level. To judge by paragraph 27 of its first report, the Advisory Committee seemed to share that opinion.

27. There seemed to be no doubt that reductions could be effected in certain items of expenditure, including staff travel, the printing of documents, the costs of premises and communications. The use of temporary staff and consultants should be strictly controlled and the number of permanent posts maintained, so far as possible, at its present level. The programme of conferences could also be reduced. The adoption of such measures could not but result in an improvement of the situation.

28. In that connexion, his delegation wished to pay a tribute to, and would participate positively in, the work being done by Mr. Hambro and hoped it would be successful. It was in that frame of mind that the French Government had decided to make a sum of \$3.9 million available to the Secretary-General as a voluntary contribution to help the Organization out of its difficulties. While allowing the Secretary-General discretion to use the contribution as he saw fit, his delegation would see nothing but advantage if it was paid into a "refinancing account" of the

type suggested by Mr. Hambro in his memorandum. Payment of the contribution in no way implied any change in the principle governing the French Government's attitude to so-called "peace-keeping operations" and their financing.

29. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that it was vital that the Organization and its membership should face up to the financial problems besetting it and seek solutions to overcome the crisis. The solutions would not be simple because the problems had reached a magnitude where palliative measures appeared to have lost their efficacy and more fundamental decisions were required. The United Nations was too vital to the world community to be left in danger of collapse because of financial default. His delegation was therefore willing to participate in any proposals aimed at finding long-term solutions to the Organization's financial problems.

30. Australia had consistently paid its assessed contributions. It had also, within the level of its resources, participated in measures aimed at maintaining a sound financial position in the Organization, and would do so again if necessary. It was vital, however, that other delegations which, for reasons of principle or other reasons, had permitted the deficit to reach its present magnitude, should make a substantial and early contribution to the solution of the problem. Those countries had had the opportunity to make their point and should now make an effort to resolve the problem. His delegation wished Mr. Hambro well in his efforts to find a long-term solution to the problem of the deficit and considered that if a solution was to be found it would be along the lines he proposed. The negotiation of a solution would take time but, without committing itself on the details which might eventually be arrived at, his delegation could indicate its support for the principles on which Mr. Hambro's proposals had been conceived. While appreciating the Soviet representative's statement at the previous meeting that his country would participate constructively in the Hambro discussions, the Australian delegation felt some concern about his implication that a favourable position on the deficit problem might be conditional upon other matters, such as staff appointments. Australia welcomed the French representative's statement concerning his country's contribution to the Organization.

31. Although the liquidity problem facing the Organization was related to, and largely the result of, the over-all deficit problem, it should, in the view of his delegation, be treated separately and in a way which would not prejudice negotiation of a long-term solution to the problem of the deficit. According to the statement of the Secretary-General at the 1427th meeting, the Working Capital Fund of \$40 million was exhausted and at the end of September it had been necessary to borrow \$15 million from special-purpose accounts and trust funds to meet on-going expenses. The Secretary-General had also described the state of the Organization as one of "near and hopeless insolvency". If the situation was indeed as serious as that described by the Secretary-General, his delegation would have assumed that he would immediately have taken whatever measures were within his power to avert the most serious consequences of the crisis. It urged the Secretary-General to give Member States the earliest possible indication of the measures he intended to introduce.



32. In view of the grave situation facing the Organization, there was no justification for delaying the formulation and introduction of restrictive measures to minimize the effects of the liquidity problem. The Secretary-General himself should identify the restrictive measures which could be taken because he was most familiar with the relative costs of programmes and he could best assess those areas where the largest savings could be made with the least adverse effect on the Organization's activities. Measures he might consider initiating included a severe reduction in duty travel, overtime and the use of consultants. Savings might also be achieved in communications through strict control of long distance telephoning and the use of airmail rather than telegrams. Proposals to purchase or rent new equipment should be reviewed and replacement of existing usable equipment should be delayed. Savings would also result from a reduction in the frequency of meetings of certain committees. In documentation there was undoubtedly scope for considerable savings. In that connexion, the Joint Inspection Unit had made a number of recommendations in documents A/8319 and Corr.1 and A/8362 and the Secretary-General should give an early indication of which of those recommendations he supported. The problem of documentation could be eased by recycling the programme of conferences, studies and seminars.

33. If the Secretary-General was prepared to introduce such measures, the Members of the Organization should give consideration to the role they might play in improving the cash position of the Organization. Consideration might be given to replenishing the Working Capital Fund either by contributions from Member States, including more than proportionate contributions by major defaulters, or by retaining surpluses achieved as a result of the proposed restrictive measures either in the Working Capital Fund or in some special fund on which the Secretary-General could draw to meet on-going expenses. Such proposals could only be considered, however, after the Secretary-General had given details of the action he intended to take to ensure that expenditure did not exceed income. In principle, his delegation did not consider that surpluses should be used to increase the Working Capital Fund but, provided it was clear that the Organization was doing all it could to keep expenses under control, Australia could consider, in the present special circumstances, support of the proposal made by the Secretary-General at the 1427th meeting that savings should be used to improve the cash position. It should, of course, be noted that the cash position would be significantly improved if Members paid their contributions as early as possible in the financial year.

34. He reiterated that the measures he had suggested were only concerned with the Organization's cash problem; they were not alternatives to the major effort which would be required to overcome the problem of the deficit.

35. While the greatest responsibility for achieving a long-term solution to the deficit problem lay with the major contributors, smaller contributors also had a role to play both in exhorting the great Powers to solve the problem and in demonstrating their comprehension of the gravity of the situation by exercising the greatest restraint in the demands they made on the Organization.

36. The prevailing difficult circumstances were no reason for delaying measures for improving the Organization's

administration. Reforms which would reduce expenses while retaining efficiency should be introduced and obsolete programmes drastically cut back or discontinued. The limited staff and resources available to the Organization could then be used on high-priority activities. Coherent programmes and well-defined patterns of expenditure were required and Member States should be enabled to participate in the establishment of well-conceived financial controls by the introduction of a programme budget.

37. It was also necessary that the staff should be used in the most efficient way possible, for reduction in staff costs would yield immediate improvements in the financial position of the Organization. Member States were impressed by the high quality of the international civil service but were not convinced that its great potential was always put to the most effective use. In view of the serious financial situation, everything possible should be done to avoid increases in staff. Staff problems should be solved either by relocating or retraining existing staff. His delegation was aware of the importance of the principle of equitable geographic distribution of posts within the Secretariat and of the importance of language qualifications. However, it believed that the guiding factors in the employment of staff must always remain those of maximum efficiency, competence and integrity, as set forth in Article 101 of the Charter. It would be unfortunate if an excessive emphasis on factors other than efficiency and competence resulted in recruitment or promotion of staff in a way which might undermine the truly international character of the Secretariat. The existence of pressures, which might be political, could not be ignored and the membership must do what it could to ensure that in all cases, without exception, the staff of the Secretariat was free from any compulsion to work for the national interests of their country of origin.

38. Referring to the International Computing Centre at Geneva, he said that the concept of a common centre should be preserved and efforts made to ensure the maximum participation in it by members of the United Nations family. If it was to gain the confidence of other Geneva-based organizations, however, the Centre itself must show that it was operating efficiently and prove that it was capable of satisfying their data-processing requirements more cheaply and efficiently than they could themselves. It should be borne in mind that some of the functions intended to be carried out on the Centre's equipment were vital to the operations of the agencies, which were naturally concerned that their requirements should be fully met. It was to be hoped that future reports of the activities of the Centre would provide reassurance on those points.

39. Mr. KAWAH (Liberia) said that his Government was gravely concerned by the magnitude of the financial crisis facing the United Nations. It was not convinced that the Secretariat was exerting every effort to achieve maximum economies or employing sound management practices. It had to admit, however, that there was no easy solution to the problem. There was a discrepancy between Member States' expectations of what the Organization should do and the resources they provided for realization of their expectations. Member States' financial support of the Organization was glaringly inadequate. It was the duty of each member of the Fifth Committee to study the

Secretary-General's budget estimates very carefully and to vote the necessary increases or decreases in the light of his Government's position. Nevertheless, as the Secretary-General had said in his statement at the 1427th meeting, it would be foolish in the extreme to fail to take account of the melancholy fact that the Organization was in a state of near and hopeless insolvency. It was ironical that an Organization like the United Nations should be faced with a serious budgetary deficit and it was difficult to understand why so many Member States defaulted on their payments. Of course, countries afflicted by natural disasters did experience difficulties and it would be unfair to expect them to meet even their assessed obligations to the Organization. His delegation appreciated the arguments in paragraphs 10-14 of the report of the Committee on Contributions,<sup>1</sup> but did not accept the conclusion in paragraph 15. Countries suffering from natural disasters could be allowed, over a period of time, to suspend payment of contributions in an amount commensurate with the severity of the disaster.

40. It was difficult to explain why some one third only of the contributions due for 1971 had been paid by June of that year. In view of the yearly speeches lauding the United Nations, such a statistic was embarrassing. The current world monetary crisis, with its overtones of nationalism, affected the solvency of the United Nations and would have serious repercussions on the International Development Strategy proclaimed for the Second Development Decade. The crisis was prejudicial to the trade promotion efforts of all developing countries and involved the United Nations, whose role as a buffer between the developing and developed countries would suffer as a result of the current instability of exchange rates, particularly those of currencies which it used extensively.

41. His Government did not see a rational or acceptable relationship between the cost of maintaining the staff and the volume of work and productivity. Furthermore, it could hardly be said that there had been an improvement in the quality of work as compared with the level of productivity. There was, however, a direct relationship between the lack of quality in work carried out and the chronic problem of the volume and availability of documentation.

42. His delegation was gratified that the International Computing Centre at Geneva had become operational but was concerned at the reluctance of some organizations in the United Nations system to commit themselves to full participation in the project, which would ultimately achieve greater economies.

43. Turning to the question of special missions, he said that his delegation was taking a serious look at section 17 of the estimates. It would study very carefully the financial implications of the missions concerned. His delegation was also exercised by the degree to which temporary assistance under chapter II of section 3 was entering a state of permanent expansion. There was need for some such assistance but the rate at which it was growing had to be questioned, in terms both of the increasing level of work and of performance.

44. He commended the Advisory Committee on the quality of its work and the Secretary-General on his efforts to comply with recommendations by the Fifth Committee. His delegation would seriously consider the Secretary-General's statement to the Committee (A/C.5/1376) and the appeal he had made for self-discipline on the part of Member States.

45. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the uncertainty surrounding the current debate, as a result of the Organization's financial situation and prospects, was compounded by the fact that it had arisen one year after the adoption of the International Development Strategy. That Strategy, of exceptional importance for the developing countries, would demand specific commitments of the Organization as a whole, which would be reflected in budget appropriations for years to come.

46. The budget was increasing yearly, despite all recent efforts to counter that trend, but the problem was not the fact of the increase *per se*; a clear distinction should be drawn between the resources utilized for new programmes and those consumed by increased administrative costs. His delegation had always favoured justified increases in expenditure, firmly believing that the Organization's activity should not be limited by ceilings. An entirely different matter, however, was the use of resources allocated for the purpose of ensuring greater efficiency and productivity in various spheres of activity. His delegation had always believed that the transformation of the Secretariat into an unwieldy apparatus must be avoided, particularly in view of the fact that the number of staff did not necessarily reflect the efficiency of the Organization. Nevertheless, administrative costs were steadily increasing to the detriment of new programmes. Among other factors accounting for the current budgetary increase was the fluctuation in the exchange rate of certain currencies. His delegation believed that the existing situation called for the practice of austerity and saw the solution not simply in the arbitrary reduction of costs but in efforts to utilize available resources in the most rational manner. Until United Nations finances had been placed on a sound basis, concerted efforts by the Secretariat and all Member States would have to be made to achieve that end.

47. Delegations did not yet have a true picture of probable gross expenditure during the financial year 1972 because the Secretary-General had forecast additional requirements which, for the time being, he could only estimate at some \$12 million. In addition, a revision of expenditure estimates was likely to result from decisions to be reached during the current session. The budget would be a serious burden for a number of small and medium Powers; even the symbolic contribution of 0.04 per cent would confront the countries involved with considerable difficulty.

48. His delegation had consistently stressed the need for the establishment of priorities and long-term planning. Yet, the number of meetings continued to increase, despite calls for greater efficiency in organizing the calendar of conferences. The problem of the increasing volume of documentation was closely linked to the number of such meetings and had become an obstacle in itself and the Organization

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 11.

should seriously consider a sharp reduction. A bold approach of the Committee to those problems and implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on documentation could mark the beginning of an improvement. The Secretariat itself could undertake to implement certain of the proposed measures but many others could succeed only with the co-operation of Member States.

49. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations for reductions in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972. In view of the fact that staff costs accounted for some 75 per cent of that budget, his delegation would study in depth the measures to be suggested by the Secretary-General on the basis of the manpower utilization survey conducted by the Administrative Management Service. That survey should result in suggestions for higher productivity and even for restructuring sections and divisions in some departments, but not for further increases in staff. Of special interest were the results of the survey of the largest Secretariat department, Economic and Social Affairs, having regard to the repeated requests for decentralization. The results of Administrative Management Service studies had wider implications in view of the solution pending on the question of the decentralization of Secretariat services. The problem of decentralization should be approached in a bolder manner, with steps taken to assign the regional economic commissions greater responsibility and increase their competence.

50. The Secretary-General's statement regarding the Organization's financial problems could not be ignored; concerted efforts and goodwill were needed to ensure the success of the efforts of the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, and the Secretary-General to safeguard the effective performance of the United Nations. Against that background, his delegation had been deeply disturbed by statements by some members of the United States Congress to the effect that if China was expelled from the United Nations, they would use their influence to have the United States drastically reduce its contributions to the Organization.

51. He was sure, therefore, that the statement by the United States representative concerning the official position of his Government (1431st meeting) had met with general approval. Nevertheless, the part of that statement which had referred to the frustrations of the constitutional system of the United States gave rise to some doubts. In that connexion, he recalled certain developments within the ILO, whose wider implications far exceeded purely financial issues. Should the United Nations experience a situation similar to that of the ILO, the consequences could be far-reaching. States Members of the United Nations had equal rights and obligations deriving from the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in a democratic manner. His own delegation would continue to support all efforts directed towards ensuring the normal functioning of the Organization. It was only through a policy of international co-operation and understanding such as that pursued by the non-aligned States, including his own, that the United Nations could be strengthened and its financial position placed on a sound basis.

## AGENDA ITEM 75

### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (continued)\* (A/8458, A/8471)

52. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the documents before the Fifth Committee showed that there would be an excess under certain sections of the budget estimates for the 1971 financial year for a total amount of \$2,884,600, against which savings were expected under other sections in the order of \$2,195,000. Consequently, there would be an extra requirement of \$689,600. That was the situation on the assumption that \$2 million appropriated during the current year for new construction at Headquarters would be treated as a normal saving. The Fifth Committee would have to decide whether it agreed to that sum being so regarded. Against the \$689,600 could be set \$478,500 representing income higher than estimated and the Secretary-General had undertaken to absorb the difference of \$211,100. In view of that undertaking, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had not considered it necessary to comment on the various sections of the supplementary estimates (A/8458). As paragraph 9 of its report (A/8471) made clear, however, the Advisory Committee had subjected the supplementary estimates to detailed review in the light of additional information provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General. It had concluded that it was well within the Secretary-General's ability to absorb the \$211,100 and had also felt that the Secretary-General would be able to absorb the consequences of currency fluctuations in addition. No forward estimate of the impact of the floating of currencies on the 1971 budget could be given for the time being, although the Secretary-General had indicated that it could increase the estimate for that year by as much as \$500,000. The Advisory Committee had been fortified in its views regarding the Secretary-General's ability to absorb additional expenditures by the fact that there had been year-end surpluses in 1968, 1969 and 1970. Given the current fluid situation, however, it had not tried to recommend changes under individual sections. If the Fifth Committee approved the figures in paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report, there would be no need for additional contributions from Governments in respect of the financial year 1971, provided that the Fifth Committee agreed that the \$2 million not expended on construction should be treated as a normal saving.

53. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Secretary-General had been gratified that the Advisory Committee had been able to accept the revised estimates as they stood. The levels ultimately to be proposed under a number of sections could be effected by an evaluation, later during the current session, of the consequences of currency fluctuations since August of 1971. It was also possible that certain other needs might arise for purposes that could not currently be foreseen. In addition, he thought the Fifth Committee might wish to have some time for reflection on the Headquarters accommodation problem as raised in the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/C.5/1381). In the circumstances, he agreed with the Advisory Committee that it would be premature to decide on revised appropria-

\* Resumed from the 1431st meeting.

tions under individual budget sections at the current juncture. If the Fifth Committee agreed to defer action for the time being, it would nevertheless be necessary for the Secretary-General to request its authority to enter into additional commitments at least up to the level provisionally recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report. For the time being, such commitment would not exceed a total of \$192,627,800 – involving an increase of \$478,500 in the amount initially appropriated. Specifically, the Secretary-General would request authority to meet the additional requirements indicated under the 10 expenditure sections listed in paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's report, subject to a total reduction of \$211,100, which the Secretary-General had undertaken to absorb within the appropriations as a whole. For the moment, that reduction would be applied on a purely arbitrary basis to sections 3 and 4. The additional amounts required under those two sections might therefore be set at \$455,200 and \$248,700 respectively, it being understood that the Secretary-General would be allowed to exceed those limits to the extent allowed by possible further economies under other budget sections.

54. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) expressed regret and concern that the fact that no additional funds were being sought for the financial year 1971 was due solely to the proposed diversion of \$2 million which had been allocated to the construction of buildings at Headquarters. As that sum could not be disbursed as originally intended, the whole of it should be credited to Member States, thereby reducing the level of their contributions for the current financial year. Furthermore, his delegation did not overlook the fact that Member States would, in the future, be requested to make provision for the execution of the construction plans for which the \$2 million had been allocated. Surplus income should also be used to reduce the contributions of Member States.

55. According to the principle of financial discipline, which should be basic to the Organization, expenditure should be completely covered from the resources made available to the Secretariat in the budget adopted by the General Assembly. Guided by that principle and using savings in one area to meet unforeseen expenditure in others, the Secretariat should only resort to supplementary estimates in truly extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances. Unfortunately, that was not the current practice. Consequently, Member States were faced each year with *faits accomplis* which resulted in the increase of their contributions. The factors which accounted for the supplementary estimates for the current financial year, and in particular, the \$2 million which was presumably intended to cover that expenditure, merely confirmed that his delegation's concern was justified.

56. Staff costs and related expenses weighed particularly heavily in the 1972 budget and in the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971. Referring to paragraph 33 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972, he drew the Committee's attention to the very disturbing fact that the credit for temporary assistance and consultants added about 9 per cent to the regular manpower resources of the Secretariat. The services of individual experts, consultants

and *ad hoc* expert groups were to cost the not negligible sum of \$1.6 million in 1972. What were the reasons for such expenditure on the services of consultants and experts, having regard to the fact that an ever increasing number of permanent and provisional posts were being created in the Secretariat? Who was competent to take decisions regarding the employment of such persons and what was the procedure used? What specific tasks had been entrusted to experts and consultants engaged in their personal capacity in the previous 12-month period and in what areas of the Organization's activities had they been employed? From what geographical areas had the consultants and experts employed by the Organization during the previous 12 months been selected? What measures did the Secretariat take, or intend to take, to limit the use of consultants and experts to the absolute minimum and thus avoid the waste of resources? His delegation would welcome a reply to its questions, if possible before the debate on section 3 of the budget estimates for 1972.

57. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) expressed appreciation of the manner in which the Secretary-General had dealt with the question of supplementary estimates, particularly as there would be no need for an additional assessment in respect of the financial year 1971. That was especially important in view of the financial situation of the United Nations. In that connexion, he drew particular attention to the statement in paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8471) that the Secretary-General was hopeful that additional under-expenditure might arise under several budget sections in amounts sufficient to meet certain new requirements.

58. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation was not happy with the manner in which the subject of supplementary estimates had been presented to the Committee. Although the Controller had earlier indicated that certain steps might be taken by the Secretary-General in that connexion, the Committee had yet to be informed as to what those measures might be. In addition, his delegation wished to study the Controller's statement during the current meeting. It found the current situation with regard to the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 somewhat puzzling. The \$2 million allocated for construction at Headquarters had not been used for the purpose for which it had been approved and could hardly be regarded as a saving in the proper sense of that word. His delegation had hoped that the Secretary-General, instead of presenting a brief report like that in document A/C.5/1381, would present a detailed report on the question of construction at Headquarters and any alternate course proposed. He drew particular attention to paragraphs 4-6 of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) which had acquired a new urgency since it had proved impossible to complete the financial arrangements for the construction in question.

59. His delegation had no objection to the Controller's request for authority to meet the additional requirement of \$478,500, but considered that the question of the treatment of the \$2 million should be considered separately from that of the supplementary estimates.



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 74

Financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970 and reports of the Board of Auditors (concluded):\*

- (a) United Nations (concluded):\*
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (concluded):\*\*
- (c) United Nations Children's Fund (concluded):\*\*
- (d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (concluded):\*\*
- (e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (concluded):\*\*
- (f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (concluded)\*\*

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the  
General Assembly (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.6)*

1. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago) (Rapporteur) introduced the draft report of the Committee (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.6) on the financial reports and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1970 and the reports of the Board of Auditors.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the draft report.

*It was so decided.*

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3, E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

3. Mr. OGISO (Japan) said that the financial crisis facing the United Nations was rooted in the serious differences of position of Member States on important political issues. The incipient insolvency undermined the prestige of the Organization and, if continued, would seriously damage its

usefulness as an effective instrument for international co-operation and peace. His delegation fully concurred, therefore, with the Secretary-General that it had become a vital necessity that "all forces should be joined to re-establish the principle of collective responsibility" (see A/C.5/1376). The negotiations undertaken by the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, represented the most comprehensive approach to the problem. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General had stated that there was all too little reason to expect that an over-all solution would be found in the immediate future and the Fifth Committee could not passively await a successful outcome of those negotiations. It must take certain less ambitious but possibly more realistic steps without further delay. Given the precarious financial situation, appropriations other than those required to satisfy the essential needs and vital interests of the membership were no longer justified. Reductions in the level of appropriations would not in themselves contribute to the restoration of solvency and unless a sufficient measure of budgetary restraint was applied, an unfavourable image of the Organization could result and create circumstances detrimental to the achievement of an over-all solution. More than ever, the Committee must exercise restraint in making decisions regarding the budget for the financial year 1972. Furthermore, the Committee must explore, pending a solution of the problem, all possible measures to minimize strictly any further accumulation of the already considerable deficit. It was greatly to be hoped that the Secretary-General would do his utmost to make savings wherever possible.

4. In that connexion, he noted that, if the Secretary-General was unable to rely upon voluntary financial support from many Governments, he would see no alternative to proposing a series of restrictive measures to arrest any further increase in the deficit by limiting future expenditures to the level of resources actually placed at his disposal. The proposal that the Secretary-General had in mind might be the only positive means in the current circumstances of avoiding the continued deterioration of the Organization's financial situation. At the same time, his delegation welcomed the USSR delegation's decision to participate in the negotiations conducted by Mr. Hambro, the New Zealand Government's readiness to co-operate in that search for a solution and the French Government's decision to make a voluntary contribution of \$3.9 million.

5. His delegation noted with anxiety that not only was the percentage increase in the gross expenditure budget for the financial year 1972 the highest in the history of the Organization but, in absolute terms, it was comparable with the record-breaking increase in the budget for the preceding financial year. The general trend of rising expenditure, due principally to higher staff costs, was alarming. The Com-

\* Resumed from the 1428th meeting.

\*\* Resumed from the 1426th meeting.

mittee must scrutinize with the utmost care the question whether the proposed staffing of the various branches of the Secretariat was appropriate.

6. His delegation fully agreed with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/C.5/1377) concerning the importance of staff productivity and morale and the Fifth Committee should pursue that issue in its future work. The manner in which the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had begun its work was most encouraging and much could be expected of its thorough review of the salary system. The conclusions and recommendations in that Committee's final report would have far-reaching consequences for streamlining the United Nations common system of salaries. The mandate of the Special Committee should be extended for a further year in view of the complexity of its work and favourable consideration should be given to providing it with the necessary financial resources. In that context, his delegation attached much importance to the availability of full details of the manpower utilization surveys by the Administrative Management Service, including the recommendations of the survey teams and an indication of which of them the Secretary-General had accepted, which he had rejected and which were still under consideration.

7. Another area of concern to his delegation was the volume of documentation which continued to plague the Organization. It was to be hoped that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit would stimulate action in that connexion by the various organs of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee itself was to be commended for having, at the current session, substantially shortened its main report on the budget estimates.

8. The problem of the size and growth of the Organization's budget pointed to the need for ensuring effective utilization of limited resources. However, it was only by establishing a more rational relationship between programme formulation and budgeting that the problem could be tackled effectively. His delegation therefore considered that attempts to introduce an integrated system of long-term programming should be continued. It wished to point out, however, that such programming would be advantageous only if the necessary prerequisites for its effective operation were met. As was pointed out in the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1335)<sup>1</sup> and the Advisory Committee (A/8033),<sup>1</sup> one such prerequisite was a change in the existing state of affairs under which the task of determining work programmes and their related budgetary requirements was undertaken by separate organs working in virtually complete isolation. Regrettably, it was also true that the annual review of the budget by the Fifth Committee was conducted without a full appreciation of the work programmes or of the importance attaching to them.

9. The most essential immediate task, therefore, was to improve the decision-making processes in the United Nations. In that connexion, attention should be paid to the statement made by the Secretary-General in document

A/C.5/1335 and in his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406) that a first and essential step would seem to be for Member States to take concrete action which would concentrate the authority to approve projects and to determine budget policy in as few bodies as possible, ideally in a single body. His delegation was prepared to co-operate in exploring means to improve the Organization's decision-making processes, possibly by strengthening the authority and functions of the Fifth Committee. It had noted with interest the suggestions made by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/1335, including the idea that the resolutions of the various programme-formulating bodies might be limited in the first stage to statements of intention. In principle, his delegation supported the idea of programme budgeting, because it would be an improvement on the existing system and would facilitate more substantive deliberations on the budget in the Fifth Committee, and looked forward to the "mock-up" of the 1972 estimates to be presented by the Secretary-General. More substantive discussions on the budget in the Fifth Committee, coupled with necessary improvements in the decision-making process, could result in a more rational allocation of resources as well as better co-ordination of the activities of the various organs of the United Nations.

10. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his Government regarded the United Nations as an important instrument for the maintenance of peace and the development of international co-operation and it was in that light that it considered questions relating to the financing of the activities of the United Nations. The scrupulous observance of the principles of the Charter was essential to the successful functioning of the Organization and that circumstance must be borne constantly in mind when the budget estimates were considered. It was a matter of general concern that the United Nations was beginning the second quarter-century of its existence in the serious financial straits which the Secretary-General had described in his statement to the Committee at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376). It was to be hoped that all delegations would co-operate in the search for a solution. The Fifth Committee, especially, must be very circumspect in its examination of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972. He observed, moreover, that those estimates contained allocations for purposes which were in contradiction with those of the Charter.

11. The Advisory Committee had dealt rather timidly with certain problems relating to the effective utilization of the Organization's resources. The first report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972 and the other relevant documentation revealed certain trends in current expenditure and the reasons underlying those trends. It was clear that the trend, evident in previous years, towards the unjustified expansion of the budget continued. There was to be an increase of some 12 per cent by comparison with the budget for 1971, so that the eventual level of requirements for 1972 would be some \$215 million. Explanations that the increase in actual expenditure under the 1972 budget would not exceed some 10 per cent by comparison with that for the previous year could not be regarded as satisfactory. That forecast was based on an increase in expenditure in 1971 and not on a curtailment of expenditure in 1972. He

<sup>1</sup> Document relating to agenda item 80 of the Twenty-fifth Session, issued separately (offset).



emphasized that the practice of requesting authorization for supplementary estimates was unacceptable. The budget adopted by the General Assembly should be observed strictly, with the Secretariat a model of prudence in the expenditure of its resources.

12. The budget estimates for 1972 did not provide for any radical changes which would lead to an improvement in the budgetary situation. In almost every section of the budget, the trend was towards an unjustified expansion. The implications for the financial future of the United Nations were ominous. His delegation shared the concern expressed by many delegations regarding the increase in the United Nations staff. In recent years, the Organization's administrative apparatus had grown into an enormous and cumbersome machine serviced by over 11,000 staff members. In present circumstances, there could be no justification for continued staff expansion; the primary task must be to ensure the effective functioning of the existing apparatus and the rational use of current resources.

13. In paragraph 42 of his foreword to the budget estimates for 1972, the Secretary-General referred to the task of the Administrative Management Service in relation to staff resources. Efforts to ensure a more rational utilization of staff deserved support. The Administrative Management Service had already done a considerable amount of work. Such information as was available, however, indicated that the results of that work were hardly satisfactory. In paragraph 32 of the foreword, the Secretary-General indicated that the Administrative Management Service recommended increased staff levels for the growing number of offices and departments already surveyed. The manpower survey was a costly operation and it was difficult to reconcile its original task with a result which involved even further staff increases. His delegation could only have serious objections to the use of the Administrative Management Service survey for the further expansion of the Secretariat staff. He referred to the conclusion in paragraph 39 of the Advisory Committee's first report that some Administrative Management Service recommendations would have a more immediate impact on the number of staff and that there might be a natural tendency to oppose those which were unwelcome. He also drew attention to paragraph 40 of the same document which stated that, following the increase in salary scales from 1 July 1971, it was reasonable to expect that the staff would respond with increased productivity and that, in the next phase of its work, the Administrative Management Service, might, with advantage, place more emphasis on productivity. Those aspects of the report should be noted and ought to have been reflected in the budget for 1972. In previous years, his delegation had criticized budgetary provision for the recruitment of temporary staff and it was unfortunate that the latest estimates also contained provision for such staff. It supported the proposal that the 1972 manning table should remain at the same level as that for 1971 and that provisional posts introduced in 1971 should be sharply reduced.

14. The question of staff was also bound up with that of recruitment. The General Assembly, in resolution 2736 (XXV) on the composition of the Secretariat, had adopted a series of guidelines for the recruitment of staff for the Secretariat. That resolution had been a reaction to

the abnormal recruitment practices which had led to a situation in which a certain group of countries had been over-represented while others, including his own country, filled only part of their allotted quotas. His delegation awaited with interest further action to improve the geographical distribution of the Secretariat staff, which remained quite unsatisfactory. He was surprised at the attempts by certain delegations to cast doubts on the principle of equitable geographical distribution by contrasting it with the principle of competence. Resolution 2736 (XXV) gave no grounds for such an approach. Only a combination of the two requirements could ensure a proper recruitment policy. If competent staff were not recruited on an equitable geographical basis, it could only be because it was the policy of the Secretariat to prolong the existing abnormal situation.

15. He drew attention to paragraph 23 of the Advisory Committee's first report which referred to the fact that proposals emanating from within the Secretariat either as new initiatives or as interpretations of the broad policies formulated by the legislative organs had their own budgetary impact. In paragraph 27 of its report, the Advisory Committee, stating its position on that situation, observed that it was necessary to ensure that departmental or individual enthusiasms did not outrun the need to determine programme priorities on a wider basis. His delegation fully supported that position which, unfortunately, was not always upheld by Secretariat units. He recalled that the Resources and Transport Division had proposed an extraordinarily large programme of activities, which had been quite unrealistic and had considerably complicated the work of the Committee on Natural Resources. Such examples of misguided enthusiasm were by no means isolated and his delegation fully understood the position of the Advisory Committee.

16. The budget estimates for 1972 again contained appropriations which were in contradiction to the principles of the Charter; they included appropriations for the payment of interest and repayment of capital, expenditure on the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. His delegation objected in principle to such expenditure. He reiterated his delegation's opposition to expenditure on technical assistance under the regular budget. Such assistance should be financed from the UNDP budget on a voluntary basis.

17. One new element in the budget estimates was the additional costs resulting from the monetary crisis in the capitalist world, estimated by the Secretary-General at about \$1,250,000 for 1971 and about \$2,500,000 million for 1972. The Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee seemed to have confined themselves to taking note of the fact, but his delegation thought there should be an approach of principle to such a matter. Was it legitimate that the United Nations, and thus the people of Member States, should pay for the effects of the crisis in the currency system of the western countries, which resulted from the contradictions of imperialism? It was legitimate to expect from the Advisory Committee a concrete reaction to the current situation. It was essential to use all reserves in order to limit any possible effects on adopted programme implementation. But all that was suggested in the

budget estimates was a further increase in expenditure, and there was no attempt to delete from the budget unnecessary or illegitimate expenses. That made it difficult to concentrate on the basic problems. The Advisory Committee's first report had made some useful suggestions, but it should have made further suggestions about eliminating unjustified expenditure. The Fifth Committee should consider amending the budget estimates by deleting all costs which were inconsistent with the Charter and which were leading to a further deterioration in the financial situation of the United Nations. It was necessary to ensure a more rational use of the resources contributed by Member States. He appealed to the Advisory Committee to follow that course, and said his country was ready to co-operate actively in achieving those aims.

18. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) said it was disturbing to hear from the Secretary-General that the Organization's financial crisis was the result of several years of budgetary problems and growing budget deficits. It was most regrettable that neither the Secretary-General nor the General Assembly had made concrete recommendations at an earlier stage to remedy the situation. Furthermore, despite the crisis, the budget estimates for 1972 represented an increase of between 9 and 10 per cent over 1971. The estimates should be in line with the funds that were expected to be actually available. Ecuador understood and sympathized with the States that had refused to pay part of their assessments for reasons of principle; it was not right that certain peace-keeping operations should be financed from the regular budget and thus from funds contributed by many small and poor countries. He wished Mr. Hambro every success in his search for a solution to the financial crisis. Ecuador had done all it could to meet its financial obligations to the Organization. He appealed to all countries to reconsider their position, so that they could all unite to rescue the Organization from financial insolvency.

19. He expressed concern at the delay in submitting the Fifth Committee's documents; the subjects dealt with were so complex that it was essential to have the documents in good time so that they could be carefully studied. Steps must be taken to correct that situation. The Committee had had to defer its consideration of the accounts for 1970 and 1971 because the relevant reports were not ready.

20. He welcomed the Secretary-General's suggestions about the introduction of an integrated planning, programming and budgeting system with a view to bringing together the programmes and the corresponding budget estimates.

21. He appealed to the developed countries to make voluntary contributions towards the financing of the many technical assistance programmes of the United Nations family, especially the UNDP programmes. They could afford to do more than they had in the past, and the Second United Nations Development Decade was the right time to begin. The development programmes not only helped to improve the living conditions of the impoverished masses in the poorer countries, but by doing so helped to promote peace and security in the world.

22. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) said that the problems now facing the Organization existed in most international bodies founded on mutual consent of the Members. There were

bound to be differences of opinion on programmes, methods and principles, but if they proved irreconcilable they might spell the doom of an organization. The achievements of the United Nations family over the past two decades showed that it was in the interests of all nations, developed or developing, to help preserve the Organization.

23. Having carefully studied the Advisory Committee's first report on the budget estimates, Nigeria considered that the recommendations it contained were fair, and accepted the proposed figure of \$204.5 million for the financial year 1972. With respect to the rate of expansion of the budget, he said the final figure was likely to be about 11 or 12 per cent above that for 1971.

24. In paragraph 20 of his foreword to the budget estimates, the Secretary-General had asked whether the amount he proposed could be regarded as an excessive investment in the quest for universal stability and progress. No speaker had yet attempted to answer that question. There were a number of factors to consider in that regard. First, funds must be found to ensure implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade. Second, the flow of capital from the developed to the developing countries had not been sufficient to enable the latter to achieve a satisfactory growth rate. Third, the problems of those countries had been further aggravated by the international monetary crisis. In view of those facts, and of the United Nations role in making up for deficiencies in bilateral assistance, it would be wrong to suggest that the level of the United Nations budget must be determined by reference to such fixed standards as the growth rate of the national incomes of Member States.

25. The size of the budget was affected mainly by the three factors of inflation, new programmes, and administrative and operational practices. The first was beyond the Secretary-General's control, and accounted for a large part of the increase in the budget estimates. As to the second, he thought it wrong that there should be increases in the staff when there was no corresponding increase in programmes; consequently there should be a reduction of the new posts for 1972 to bring them in line with the marginal increase in activities. As to the last factor, administrative and operational practices, if they were inefficient, they could inflate the budget without increasing productivity.

26. He hoped that the appointment of a director of the International Computing Centre at Geneva would help to remove the difficulties that now hindered some organizations from using it.

27. He looked forward to seeing the Secretary-General's proposals for an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting, which he hoped would bring about a more orderly and effective operation within the United Nations system.

28. Nigeria was deeply concerned at the grave financial situation of the United Nations, and wished Mr. Hambro every success in his search for a solution. He strongly supported the Australian view (1434th meeting) that the smaller countries should not be excluded from the efforts



carried out by Mr. Hambro. Any solution that did not consider the views of smaller nations was unlikely to prove permanent. He therefore proposed that a body representing all shades of opinion in the Fifth Committee should be set up to make appropriate recommendations. He appealed to all Member States to reconcile their positions of principle with the stark realities of the financial situation of the Organization in the interest of its survival.

29. Mr. DILER (Turkey) said that it appeared that the eventual total level of the budget estimates for 1972 would be about \$215 million. That increase was not in proportion to the increase in activities. Although some of the increased costs were beyond the Secretary-General's control, and the Organization must have the funds needed to do its work, the productivity factor must also be considered. He hoped that the surveys covering various aspects of the functioning of the United Nations would bring effective measures of economy and increase efficiency. He agreed with the Secretary-General's view that an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting would make it easier to reconcile the growing needs of the Organization with its limited resources. He hoped that approach would help to preclude arbitrary cuts in expenditure, especially those affecting technical assistance and programmes of human welfare and those relating to natural disasters.

30. But the main task at present was to do something at once to solve the long-standing financial crisis. He expressed his appreciation of Mr. Hambro's efforts and said he earnestly hoped that a compromise could be worked out that would save the Organization's financial future.

#### AGENDA ITEM 75

##### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (continued) (A/8458, A/8471)

31. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, in its report (A/8471), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions seemed to have departed from its usual approach to the study of the supplementary estimates. There was no assessment of the estimates on their merits. Perhaps the main reason was that they could be met without additional contributions from Member States. He also had some doubt about the disposal of the sum of \$2 million referred to in paragraph 5 of the report. That sum was not a savings, but an unused appropriation. The Fifth Committee was being asked to approve a sizable transfer between two sections of the budget, the transfer of a sum approved under Section 7 to the heading for additional expenses for 1971. He thought that was a more correct view of the question than that expressed in the report. Furthermore, he did not see how the Fifth Committee could approve the figure proposed for the supplementary estimates before a decision was taken on the disposal of the unspent \$2 million. He would like to hear from the Controller or the Chairman of the Advisory Committee before expressing Brazil's views on the supplementary estimates.

32. Mr. BERTRÁN (Uruguay) agreed that the Committee must first take a decision on the Secretary-General's report on Headquarters accommodation (A/C.5/1381), with parti-

cular reference to the unspent allocation of \$2 million for that purpose.

33. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that at the twenty-fourth session the Committee had been assured that if the Headquarters premises were extended, the share of Member States would in no circumstances exceed \$25 million, and that the remainder would be provided from other sources, namely, UNDP, UNICEF, the United States, and New York City. Accommodation was badly needed, since expenditure on costly rented premises was not a sensible alternative. Now it appeared that the \$2 million agreed on in 1970 for that purpose was to be appropriated to meet the deficit on the supplementary estimates. He agreed with other speakers that the question of the unspent \$2 million could not be dealt with in isolation.

34. Mr. MAKUFU (Democratic Republic of the Congo) endorsed what the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had said at the preceding meeting. The unspent \$2 million could not be regarded as a savings from the 1971 budget, since it was for a specific purpose that had not yet been abandoned. Consequently, any decision on the unspent \$2 million should be deferred until the question of Headquarters accommodation had been settled.

35. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that a debate on supplementary estimates seemed to have become a regular feature of the Committee's work. He was aware that additional resources were needed to offset surplus expenditures but hoped that in future the Secretariat would be able to submit more accurate estimates. Owing to the revaluation of certain European currencies, the situation in the current year was, of course, very different from that of previous years. Nevertheless, his delegation fully endorsed the comments made by the Advisory Committee in the last two sentences of paragraph 9 of its report and hoped that the Secretariat would make vigorous efforts to reduce expenditure, particularly on the items mentioned in that paragraph.

36. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) read out paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General on Headquarters accommodation (A/C.5/1381) and said that it seemed clear that the Headquarters project was unlikely to be executed. In the circumstances and until the General Assembly had taken a decision in the matter, it would be inappropriate for the Committee to decide that the \$2 million appropriated for the project should be used to offset over-expenditures in other budget sections.

37. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that it was regrettable that the initial estimates for 1971 had been so unrealistic that additional credits were required for 10 sections of the budget. The most logical way to face a deficit was to create a surplus equal to the total sum of section shortfalls. That could be achieved if, when taking decisions, bodies always took account of the financial implications of those decisions and of the financial resources available to the Organization. The budget sections should also be kept under strict control with a view to avoiding the recurring need for supplementary estimates. His delegation had noted the Secretary-General's justifications for the additional requirements of \$2,689,600 and the comments of the Advisory Committee.

38. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) agreed with the Brazilian representative that it would be inappropriate to transfer funds appropriated for a given section to another section. He also agreed with the representative of Pakistan that the question of the disposal of the \$2 million could not be dealt with separately from the question of the outcome of the Headquarters extension project. The unspent appropriation of \$2 million for 1971 was only an apparent saving because sooner or later it would be necessary to pay rental on premises for UNDP and other bodies located outside the Headquarters building. His delegation would find it difficult, therefore, to accept the proposal put to the Committee.

39. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that, in future, care should be taken to include in the regular budget all expenses for the financial year to which the budget related. Projects giving rise to expenditure not provided for in the budget should be postponed.

40. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) agreed with the Brazilian representative that in the current year the Advisory Committee had adopted a different approach to the question. That was not, however, because the Advisory Committee had concluded that there would be no need to assess additional contributions upon Member States in respect of the financial year 1971. The Advisory Committee had made a detailed study of the supplementary estimates but, for two reasons, had decided not to attempt to quantify the various parts where economies seemed possible. In the first place, because of the currency crisis, the Organization was in a special situation at present and it was impossible, at that stage, to determine the impact of the crisis on various sections of the budget. Secondly, the Secretary-General had undertaken to absorb \$211,100 of the additional requirements and had said that he would also try to absorb the extra requirements attributable to the fluctuations in currency exchange rates since August 1971. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee had thought that the best course would be to encourage the Secretary-General to pursue that line. It had, therefore, included in paragraph 9 of its report the sentences to which the representative of Iraq had referred.

41. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the unspent \$2 million had never been described, either by the Secretary-General or by the Advisory Committee, as a saving in the conventional sense of the word. What had been said was that the \$2 million had not been used in 1971 for the purpose for which it had been allocated and would not be used to any great extent in 1971. In the light, therefore, of the Secretary-General's submission in document A/C.5/1381, the \$2 million was an unspent balance no different from other unspent balances and it was for the Committee to decide whether to follow the usual procedure of offsetting it against over-expenditure forecast for other parts of the budget. Alternatively, the Committee could decide to retain the \$2 million. That was the policy issue facing the Committee, which would have to be decided presumably when the Committee took up section 7 of the budget estimates for 1972 in second reading.

42. He was tempted to say that some members of the Committee had been much too kind in their references to

the accuracy and realism displayed by the Secretariat in formulating estimates and forecasting requirements. It was true that the Secretariat had been only 99.5 per cent successful, but its record was not too bad and he hoped that with further efforts it might be improved.

43. The Secretary-General had assumed an obligation to absorb not merely the balance of \$211,100 referred to in paragraph 7 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8471) but, so far as possible, a substantially larger amount which it was not possible to estimate with any accuracy but which, according to all indications, would be of the order of another \$500,000. That second amount would cover additional expenses attributable to fluctuations in currency exchange rates since August 1971. It had already been possible to absorb a substantial part of the unforeseeable additional expenses incurred in the first nine months of 1971, but if the Secretary-General's target was to be reached, a policy of administrative and budgetary stringency for the rest of the year was inescapable. All departments at Headquarters and in the Organization's offices abroad had been told that they should, during the remaining months of the year, make vigorous efforts to ensure that the impact of the unforeseen costs was minimized. For the remaining two and a half months of 1971 restrictive measures would have to be adopted in respect of sections 3, 4, 15, 16 and 18 of the budget. Staff recruitment would be restricted, expenses on official staff travel would be subject to scrutiny and any unfulfilled procurement programmes would be reviewed item by item. Any purchases for which commitments had not been entered into would have to be cancelled. A close watch would be kept on maintenance expenditures, and priority attention would be paid to the documentation situation. The Committee could expect concrete proposals on the subject of documentation when the Joint Inspection Unit reports on the subject (see A/8319 and Corr.1 and A/8362) came up for discussion. He would be less than frank if he were to suggest that those restrictive measures would have any appreciable impact on 1971 expenses, but he hoped that they would have an impact on 1972 expenses.

44. A restrictive attitude would also be adopted towards temporary assistance. For the most part, however, the Secretary-General's capacity to effect substantial savings under that item was very much in the Committee's hands, for unspent funds for temporary assistance were directly related to the current session of the Assembly and expenses were geared exclusively to servicing the General Assembly and its Main Committees. The obligations assumed by the Secretary-General would mean that every chapter of every section would inevitably be subject to detailed review until 31 December 1971.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee was being called upon to make a policy decision without being in full possession of all the relevant facts. Unless the Committee was prepared to take an immediate decision consistent with the assumption referred to in paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report, it might be better to defer further discussion on the question until section 7 was taken up in second reading. It should be noted, however, that if the unspent \$2 million was not set off against over-expenditures in other sections, another appropriation in the

amount of \$2 million would have to be made to cover the supplementary estimates.

46. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) asked what were the prospects of receiving a very early report on the Headquarters extension project. Once that report was available the Committee would be able to decide the fate of the unspent \$2 million.

47. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation was not prepared to take a decision on the assumption made in paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report. In any case, his delegation had strong reservations on that report.

48. He asked whether, at the previous meeting, the Controller had not said that should the Committee wish to ponder the question of the unspent \$2 million, he would have to request authority to enter into additional commitments to the level provisionally recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report. It would be interesting to know what the immediate effect would be if the Committee decided to withhold a decision on the unspent \$2 million.

49. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) explained that his main concern was that the Committee should not, when discussing the supplementary estimates, also take a decision on the question of the Headquarters extension project. It could be said that, taking account of the reduction of \$211,100, to which the Secretary-General and the Controller had agreed, and of the surplus income which would accrue in 1972, the Advisory Committee's recommendation for the supplementary estimates for 1971 would be of the level of some \$2 million. The best course might be to follow normal practice, namely, vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$2 million for supplementary estimates for 1971. When the report on the Headquarters extension project was available, the Committee could decide what to do with that sum and with the extension project itself.

50. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that, as no more than technicalities were involved, his delegation would have no difficulty in proceeding in the normal manner with respect to the 1971 supplementary estimates. The \$2 million could not be regarded as anything but an unspent amount which would normally be offset against over-expenditures in the current year and it would, in any case, be collected from Member States with their 1972 contributions. There would, therefore, be no difference between following the course recommended by the Advisory Committee or considering the \$2 million as being held in abeyance and increasing contributions to cover the supplementary estimates. An appropriation of \$1 million had been estimated for the Headquarters extension project in 1972. At the second reading of section 7, therefore, there would be no difficulty in either increasing that appropriation to \$3 million or deleting the \$1 million appropriation. He agreed, therefore, that the Committee should proceed in the normal way and adopt the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning supplementary estimates for 1971.

51. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation would have no objection to taking an immediate decision on the supplementary estimates for 1971.

52. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he would be interested to hear answers to the questions raised by the representatives of Norway and the United Republic of Tanzania. In his opinion, the Committee should either proceed along the lines suggested by the Brazilian representative or defer a decision until the question of the Headquarters extension project had been settled.

53. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the question raised by the representative of Norway, said that there would be no other report on the Headquarters extension project than document A/C.5/1381, which was already before the Committee.

54. Replying to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he repeated the statement he had made at the previous meeting to the effect that he agreed with the Advisory Committee that it would be premature to decide on revised appropriations under individual budget sections at the current juncture. Should the Committee agree to defer action for the time being, it would nevertheless be necessary for the Secretary-General to request the Committee's authority to enter into additional commitments at least up to the level provisionally recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report (A/8471). For the time being, those commitments would not exceed a total of \$192,627,800, involving an increase of \$478,500 in the amount initially appropriated. The unspent \$2 million would not be spent, so the Secretary-General requested authority to meet the additional requirements indicated under the 10 expenditure sections listed in paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's report, subject to a total reduction of \$211,100 which he had undertaken to absorb within the appropriations as a whole. The reduction would be applied on a purely arbitrary basis to sections 3 and 4, it being understood that the Secretary-General would be allowed to exceed those limits to the extent allowed by possible further economies under other budget sections.

55. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he wished to confirm what he had said at the previous meeting, namely, that he had no objection to the Committee authorizing the Secretary-General to incur commitments to the level of \$478,500 but considered that it would be inappropriate at the current stage to take a decision on the disposal of the unspent \$2 million.

56. The report in document A/C.5/1381 was very unsatisfactory for it gave no indications of how the Secretary-General intended to proceed in the matter. The meaning of the foot-notes was unclear, as was that of paragraph 5. Could the Secretary-General not suggest how members might deal with the various aspects of the situation?

57. The Chairman suggested that the Committee should confine its discussion to the question of the supplementary estimates for 1971. It might find itself in difficulty if it entered into the question of the Headquarters extension project.



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

Statements by the Secretary-General and by Mr. Hambro, President of the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said he wished to express personally and publicly his appreciation for the views which had been expressed, during the general discussion of agenda item 76, on the statement he had made at the 1427th meeting of the Committee (A/C.5/1376).

2. He also wished to express his deep appreciation to Mr. Hambro, President of the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, for his efforts to find a generally acceptable solution to the current difficulties of the Organization. He fully supported Mr. Hambro's efforts which, under the circumstances, represented the best that could be done.

3. Finally, he pointed out that the positive steps which had recently been taken by certain Governments gave him reason to trust that real progress could be made at the current session.

4. Mr. HAMBRO (President of the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session) reported on the ideas and suggestions which had been submitted to Member States and to certain non-members who held United Nations bonds with a view to finding a solution to the current financial crisis of the Organization. Since negotiations were still in a preliminary stage, it would not be appropriate to divulge any details on the matter.

5. Recalling that he had previously submitted to all delegations an aide-mémoire in which he had stressed the need to seek a viable solution aimed at eliminating both the current cash deficit and any future budgetary deficits, he said that his approach was based on the theory that, while positions of principle which Member Governments had taken must be fully respected, it was nevertheless in the common interest of the entire membership to contribute towards safeguarding the capacity of the United Nations to continue fulfilling its obligations in the future.

6. In its first report to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session,<sup>1</sup> the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the

Specialized Agencies had reached the unanimous conclusion that, after taking into account voluntary contributions paid or pledged in 1965 to the special account to assist the Organization out of its financial difficulties, additional voluntary contributions in cash (or equivalent) totalling a minimum of \$31.9 million and a maximum of \$53.3 million would be required to restore the Organization's solvency.

7. Since that time, the financial situation had continued to deteriorate. That was due, in particular, to the accumulating effect of an annual shortfall of some \$4 million in the regular budgetary assessments. Thus the Organization's deficit at the end of 1970 had stood at a total of \$65.7 million, while the balance from voluntary contributions made by some Governments in 1965 had amounted to \$13.4 million. Allowing for certain other adjustments and using the same premises as those used by the *Ad Hoc* Committee, it was estimated that a minimum of \$52.3 million and a maximum of \$69.9 million in voluntary contributions would be required—in addition to voluntary contributions already made and pledged—to settle the current deficit.

8. It was, of course, feasible to visualize a separate solution to the cash deficit problem only, but such a solution would be unsatisfactory and short-sighted. To ensure that the Organization did not in future again find itself in the same financial situation, it would be necessary to tackle the problem of those provisions in the regular budget which were the source of the annual cumulative deficit. The most complex of such problems was the servicing of the United Nations bond issue, under which \$119.4 million still remained to be amortized. It would also be necessary to tackle the difficulties in connexion with that part of the budget which (part VI for 1972) concerned technical programmes, as well as the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

9. With regard to the United Nations bond issue, the solution proposed in the aide-mémoire he had sent to Governments consisted of urging bond-holders to accept a one-time settlement whereby the value of the bonds they were holding would be offset against the total of contributions towards the amortization costs they would have to make over the regular budget during the remaining life of the bond issue. That would make it possible to liquidate immediately close to \$80 million of the \$119 million outstanding and reduce the balance that would have to be refinanced in another way to some \$40 million.

10. It was felt that if the complex question of the bond issue could be solved, it should also be possible to find solutions acceptable to a majority of Members to the other

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6289, paras. 31-35.

questions. An over-all solution to the United Nations financial problems would involve: the liquidation of the current deficit, now estimated at \$52.3 million, on the assumption that those Governments which had paid their assessments in full would have to be credited for their due share of UNEF and ONUC surpluses of approximately \$17.3 million; the immediate liquidation of the un-amortized portion of the bond issue, amounting to \$119.4 million; a settlement of the problem posed by part VI of the budget that would be acceptable to the majority of Member States; and a negotiated agreement with respect to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

11. For the purpose of managing those operations from the accounting point of view, he suggested that a United Nations refinancing account should be established which would take up all remaining assets, liabilities, surpluses and deficits from the various special and *ad hoc* accounts. All voluntary contributions in cash or equivalent would be credited to that account.

12. The solution of the Organization's general financial problems would depend fundamentally on the response of the major Powers in the Organization. It had transpired from his negotiations that the major Powers had recognized the seriousness of the problem and the need for voluntary contributions. The decision of the French Government to make a first contribution of approximately \$4 million was most encouraging, particularly since it had done so unconditionally and before any general agreement was in sight. The Organization was badly in need of such concrete gestures of support. The Secretary-General had warned that in the absence of voluntary financial support in sufficient measure, he would have no alternative to proposing a series of restrictive measures designed to arrest any further increase in the deficit. He urged all Member States to take to heart the Secretary-General's warning and act without delay.<sup>2</sup>

13. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether all delegations had received the aide-mémoire to which Mr. Hambro had referred.

14. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that the aide-mémoire had been sent to all delegations. The Norwegian delegation would be happy to supply additional copies in English to delegations that might desire them.

15. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Secretary-General for having addressed the Fifth Committee a second time. It was to be hoped that members would now be fully aware of the priority which must be accorded to the current financial crisis.

#### AGENDA ITEM 75

##### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (continued) (A/8458, A/8471)

16. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said he accepted the suggestions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and

Budgetary Questions regarding the unspent appropriation of \$2 million under section 7 of the 1971 budget to finance construction at Headquarters, but he would like to hear the views of other delegations on the matter.

17. Mr. NAUDY (France) said he was surprised that the report of the Secretary-General on Headquarters accommodation (A/C.5/1381) was not more detailed. A more complete report should have been provided, since the financing plan had not been implemented and it was therefore necessary to review the entire situation. Furthermore, in its resolution 2618 (XXIV), the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to carry out certain studies which had not been submitted. It would appear that the Secretary-General did not intend to make any new proposals in the matter and that he considered the project abandoned. That was an additional reason for his delegation to support the proposals of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

18. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted having to note that the Secretary-General had again submitted supplementary estimates that year. His delegation realized that under certain circumstances it might be unavoidably necessary to incur additional expenditures. However, those circumstances were provided for in the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and they should remain exceptional in nature. As a general rule, the Secretary-General should cover supplementary expenditures by revising priorities, economizing and transferring funds within the budget. It was regrettable that the Secretariat systematically broke that rule. To be sure, some of the supplementary requirements for 1971 were related to factors beyond the Secretary-General's control, for instance the revaluation of certain currencies or the rise in the cost of living. The Administration should, however, take the necessary steps to meet those requirements from within the funds approved for the year. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee's report (A/8471) on the supplementary estimates for 1971 pointed out certain waste and unjustifiable expenditure, particularly on official travel, and also with respect to UNCTAD and UNIDO. Discipline was required there too.

19. The Soviet delegation felt that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the Secretary-General take advantage of the remaining months of the year to study ways of financing the supplementary estimates with the funds available.

20. With regard to the unspent \$2 million appropriated for the construction programme in New York, the Secretariat's suggestion that the money be used to cover supplementary expenditures for 1971 was not acceptable. His delegation took the view that the funds should be allocated to construction programmes at Geneva and elsewhere, in order to reduce the appropriations under section 7 of the estimates for 1972. His delegation, together with others, had already spoken several times against the construction plans in New York. The report of the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations<sup>3</sup> showed that many delegations were not satisfied with the steps taken by the

<sup>2</sup> The complete text of the statement subsequently was issued as A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8.

<sup>3</sup> Document A/8474, relating to agenda item 86, issued separately (offset).

Government of the host country to guarantee the smooth operation of the Organization. The Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations had been obliged that very morning to make a complaint in the General Assembly (1972nd plenary meeting) about shots fired into the Permanent Mission of the Soviet Union the night before. That statement had been followed by another attack on the mission during which the window of the front door had been shattered. He hoped that the Sixth Committee would examine the matter and recommend appropriate action. At all events, his delegation formally opposed allocating the \$2 million for construction in New York.

21. In addition, the draft resolution on the supplementary estimates for the 1971 financial year (A/8458, annex I) provided for certain illegal expenditures relating to United Nations bonds, the Memorial Cemetery in Korea, the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, and technical programmes. His delegation would have to vote against the draft resolution.

22. Mr. GUPTA (India) felt that the Committee should take a decision without further delay on the question of the supplementary estimates. The decision would, in any event, only be a provisional one, for the Committee would have to come back to the question of the \$2 million when it considered section 7 of the 1972 budget estimates and might have to revise the figure. He agreed entirely with the views expressed by the representative of Brazil at the previous meeting and thought that the Committee should approve supplementary estimates of \$2,478,500.

23. Every year certain delegations criticized the ritual supplementary estimates by the Secretary-General. But those delegations seemed to forget that the supplementary estimates were the inevitable consequence of the cuts in appropriations recommended each year by the Advisory Committee. In fact, sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15 and 16, for which the Secretary-General was currently requesting additional funds, had been the very ones for which appropriations had been reduced in 1970 on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. Far from encouraging unnecessary expenditures, the Secretary-General was clearly doing everything in his power to economize, as could be seen from paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8471) on the supplementary estimates for 1971. But for the reductions recommended each year by the Advisory Committee and for the pressures in favour of reductions brought to bear by certain delegations, the Secretariat would not have to submit supplementary estimates.

24. Mr. NSUBUGA (Uganda) expressed the hope that the desire to balance the budget would not lead to arbitrary reductions in appropriations.

25. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, after hearing the statements by the representatives of Brazil and the Controller at the previous meeting, he thought the Committee should act without delay on the supplementary estimates in the usual way, as suggested by the representative of Brazil. He pointed out that the submission of supplementary estimates was a normal practice with most Governments and that, as the representative of India had said, it would be unnecessary if drastic reductions had not been imposed.

26. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said he could not accept the notion that a direct cause and effect relationship existed between the supplementary estimates and the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee, as the representative of India had suggested. In fact, the Secretary-General attributed the over-expenditure of more than \$1 million to the consequences of the revaluation of certain European currencies. Moreover, a look at the figures in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report convincingly showed that the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were not excessive, since even with them the Secretary-General could achieve substantial savings.

27. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said he had no difficulty in supporting the proposals made by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and noted with satisfaction that the Controller had undertaken to do all he could to see that the over-expenditures resulting from the present budgetary situation would be offset by further savings.

28. The problem, in his opinion, was a procedural one. The adoption of the supplementary estimates should actually be done in two stages: in the first stage, the Fifth Committee should approve certain expenditures and, in the second stage, it should decide how those expenditures should be financed. The two stages were equally important and could not be divorced from one another; it would be difficult for the Netherlands delegation to vote for the supplementary estimates without knowing where the funds were to come from. The Committee could therefore proceed as with the budget estimates for 1972, to a two-phase examination: first, it would give a first reading to requests for supplementary funds and approve them in principle; next, it would examine the question of the construction work at Headquarters under section 7 of the 1972 budget estimates; finally, it would give a second reading to the supplementary estimates which it would then adopt definitively with a clear idea of where the funds would come from. In fact, the question of the \$2 million had not yet been settled: the Committee might decide either to use the money to cover over-expenditures in other sections of the budget thus reducing the supplementary funds requested for 1971 to \$478,500 and obviating the need for requesting additional contributions from Member States, as the Advisory Committee had suggested in its report, or to carry over those funds to the following financial year in which case the supplementary estimates would come to \$2,478,500, in which case additional contributions would have to be requested from Member States.

29. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in view of the suggestion of the representative of the Netherlands, the Committee should accept in principle and subject to the examination of section 7 of the budget estimates for 1972, that the gross expenditure budget for 1971 be set at \$192,627,800 and that the estimate of income be increased by \$478,500 in accordance with the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report (A/8471).

30. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Advisory Committee had recommended in its report that the

Secretary-General be authorized to incur, for the financial year 1971, expenditures up to \$192,627,800 without prejudice to the decision that the Fifth Committee might take concerning the unspent \$2 million under section 7. The Fifth Committee should leave that question in abeyance and return to it later when it examined the revised estimates for 1972 for section 7. It could decide then whether simply to surrender the unspent money or to carry it over to 1972 in order to use it for construction work at Headquarters—in the hope that the planned work could be started—or elsewhere. He, personally, thought that the \$2 million should be used to finance construction work or be surrendered but should not be used for purposes other than those for which it had been intended.

31. Mr. GUPTA (India) thanked the Controller for the clarifications he had given but pointed out that if the Committee set the gross expenditure budget for 1971 at \$192,627,800, the \$2 million would cover over-expenditures in other sections of the budget and would, therefore, be utilized precisely for purposes other than those for which it had been intended. He asked whether in voting on the figure of \$192,627,800 the Committee was being asked to decide on a definitive amount or on a provisional one, as had been proposed by the representative of the Netherlands. He, personally, would prefer the latter approach.

32. Mr. FAURA (Peru) thought he had understood from the Controller's remarks that it was a provisional amount. If that were so he would vote in favour of that base figure.

33. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) felt that the Controller's remarks had confused the situation still further. In approving the amount of \$192,627,800, the Committee could not ignore the unspent \$2 million appropriation since it had served precisely to reduce the gross expenditure budget for 1971 from \$194 million to \$192 million. The Committee should therefore provisionally approve a gross figure of \$194,627,800.

34. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that, in approving the supplementary estimates, the Committee should state clearly that the appropriation of \$2 million should not be used, even under section 7, for any purpose other than to finance the Headquarters construction project, since it was for that project that the appropriation had been authorized.

35. Mr. TURNER (Controller) assured the representative of Hungary that that would certainly be the case.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve, provisionally and subject to the decision that it might subsequently take with regard to section 7, the request for supplementary appropriations totalling \$2,478,500 and an increase of \$478,500 in the income estimates for 1971.

37. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) opposed the use of the word "provisionally". The Committee should take a final decision on the supplementary estimates, without prejudice to the decision that it would subsequently take with regard to the unused appropriation of \$2 million.

38. The CHAIRMAN said he was ready to delete the words "provisionally and subject to . . .", which had been

included to meet the objections raised by the representatives of India and the Netherlands.

39. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) requested that the formulation on which the Committee would be invited to vote should be circulated in writing to the members of the Committee.

40. Mr. PICK (Canada), Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) and Mr. NAITO (Japan) supported the request made by the representative of the Netherlands.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that the formulation in question would be submitted in writing the next day to the members of the Committee.

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(for the documentation, see the 1435th meeting)

#### *General discussion (continued)*

42. Mr. LOURENCO (Portugal) said that the Secretary-General had requested for 1972 a gross appropriation of \$207,721,500, which represented an increase of 8.1 per cent over the appropriation for 1971. However, the Secretary-General had announced that he would request further appropriations amounting to \$6.8 million to cover items in regard to which decisions would have to be taken soon. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for its part, after examining all the relevant information, had recommended a reduction of \$3,101,200 in the net expenditure. But even if that reduction were carried out, the budget would show an increase over the preceding financial year. His delegation regarded the progressive growth of the budget from year to year with misgiving, since although a growing budget was ordinarily an indication of vitality, that was unlikely to be the case with the United Nations.

43. In his foreward to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), the Secretary-General had presented a very useful comparative study section by section of the estimates for 1972 and appropriations approved for 1971. He had also analysed the factors responsible for the increase in the budget, particularly the additional cost of maintaining in 1972 the staff resources approved for 1971, the increases in salaries and wages, the increase in rates for contractual services, the increase in sea and air travel fares and other unavoidable increases. His delegation well understood that the inflation of recent years, with its accompanying increases in the cost of living, together with the revaluation of certain currencies, had complicated the Secretary-General's task, but it should not be forgotten that the Governments of Member States had to face the same difficulties.

44. In certain sectors, more judicious management could greatly assist in trimming expenditure to a reasonable level. Under the Financial Regulations, the Secretary-General was responsible not only for the preparation of the budget estimates which he submitted to the General Assembly, but also for the supervision and control of expenditure. It was true that, as the Organization had grown, proposals



emanating from within the Secretariat had had their own budgetary impact, and the process of decentralization had created additional centres of initiative, concerned primarily with their own objectives, but depending for their financing on the budget approved by the General Assembly. However, the final over-all responsibility for the choice of priorities and the application of finances rested with the Secretary-General. It would therefore not be unreasonable to expect the various departments and subsidiary bodies to become amenable to discipline in the case of disbursements which were not strictly in consonance with the directives laid down by the General Assembly, let alone in cases involving needless additional expenditure, such as those which the Board of Auditors had criticized in its reports. Furthermore, the unrestricted expansion of personnel, not always dictated by requirements, contributed to an undisciplined growth in administrative expenses, which added to factors such as the continued increase in the amount of documentation gave rise to ever larger budgets. His delegation nevertheless wished to record its appreciation to the Secretary-General for making the best of a difficult situation.

45. After a quarter of a century of existence, the United Nations had undeniably reached a critical phase. It was necessary to face the fact that the difficulties facing the Organization were not all simply financial, and that the financial crisis was but an outward symptom of a more serious malaise, of a crisis in the international community's confidence in the Organization. As a result of the policies followed by the United Nations and the action that it had taken over the past decade, certain Member States could no longer contribute to expenditure with which they did not agree. Furthermore, the enthusiasm of millions of human beings for the Organization appeared gradually to have cooled—which was understandable in view of the list of unresolved questions which had accumulated over the years on the agenda of the Security Council.

46. Of course, the Fifth Committee avoided political considerations as far as possible when examining the appropriations requested for the implementation of programmes recommended by other legislative bodies. However, it was those very programmes that were responsible for the growing deficit in various sections of the budget. The argument had been advanced that, in view of the critical financial situation in which the United Nations now found itself, Member States should make an effort to forgo the positions of principle which prevented them from making certain contributions, now that those positions were well known. To his delegation, that argument appeared fallacious. The fact that the Organization pursued policies and programmes detrimental to the interests of certain Member States, the fact that it continued to discriminate against certain Member States in all sectors of the Organization's activities, and the fact that those States were systematically excluded from technical assistance that they could receive as members of certain subsidiary organs, could scarcely be expected to make the Governments concerned enthusiastic about coming to the aid of the Organization. All those questions should be studied without emotion and in a realistic manner.

47. Passing to some specific items of the estimates and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee, he

said he did not share the view of the Advisory Committee, which had recommended (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 85) that the verbatim records of the meetings of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be discontinued, despite the economies which would thereby be achieved. The deliberations of the Conference on the question of disarmament concerned all nations, and Governments which did not participate in those deliberations wished to have access to the verbatim records of meetings of the Conference, which were the only means whereby they could acquaint themselves with the Conference's deliberations and decisions.

48. If economies at any price were felt to be necessary, they could be made in other sectors. He had in mind particularly the travel of staff, and also an enterprise upon which the Office of Public Information had recently embarked, namely, the publication entitled "The UN Story—a feature series on the expanding frontiers of United Nations activities in the world today", the utility of which was questionable, in view of the fact that the United Nations was on the brink of insolvency.

49. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) observed that the United Nations was in a paradoxical situation: at a time when the world, long troubled by distressing conflicts between nations, was glimpsing a more stable future based on peace and understanding between peoples, the United Nations found itself on the brink of bankruptcy, as the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had indicated in no uncertain terms in their statements to the Fifth Committee at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376 and A/C.5/1377). It was not the first time that the United Nations had been faced by a critical financial situation but, as the Secretary-General had said, the Organization was now in a state of near and hopeless insolvency. Its funds were depleted to the point where, in order to meet its most basic commitments, it was living literally from hand to mouth. Moreover, that was happening at a time when the United Nations was called upon to play an essential role in building a new world, in conformity with the principles of the Charter.

50. His country had confidence in the Organization, as it had shown during 26 years of membership. It would like to see the Organization freed from its economic difficulties. That was why his delegation enthusiastically supported Mr. Hambro's efforts to seek a solution to those problems. It considered that the suggestion made by one delegation to set up a group in which Mr. Hambro and members of the Fifth Committee would participate was of interest and deserved study.

51. His country, for its part, intended to fulfil its obligations to the Organization. It occupied seventeenth place among the countries that contributed to the United Nations budget, which meant that it must give up substantial amounts of foreign exchange urgently needed for its own development.

52. Without wishing to go into the details of the budget estimates, his delegation simply wished to stress the need to reduce the expenses of the Organization as much as



possible. In that connexion, it supported the work of the Advisory Committee.

53. His delegation was convinced that a solution could be found to enable the United Nations to pursue its role in

international life. In its search for that solution, the Organization could count on the support of the Argentine nation.

*The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**STATEMENTS RELATING TO THE INCIDENT AT THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

1. Mr. BENDER (United States of America), speaking in reply to comments made at the previous meeting by the representative of the Soviet Union, said that the United States categorically rejected the assertion by the Soviet representative that it had connived in, was a party to, or was in any way responsible for, the act of violence at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations on the night of 20 October. Such an accusation was without any basis in fact.

2. He could understand fully that such an act of violence should deeply disturb and anger the representative of the Soviet Union, who could rest assured that the United States delegation was equally disturbed and angered. In the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the previous day (1972nd plenary meeting), the head of the United States delegation had strongly condemned the cowardly and hostile action of the extremists who had fired four bullets into the USSR Mission as an outrageous, cowardly and hostile act representing the very worst in the fanatical fringe of his country's society, and had said that he had been assured by the New York police that the highest level of attention was being devoted to the matter and that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would co-operate as well. The United States delegation had now been informed that the New York police had already arrested an individual believed to have been the purchaser of the gun with which the bullets had been fired.

3. He assured the Soviet delegation and all other delegations that his Government and the State and City of New York deeply regretted the incident and any others directed at Missions to the United Nations and their staffs. It had taken, was taking and would continue to take whatever steps were necessary to provide for the safety of such Missions and their staffs. In view of the statement made by the head of his delegation in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly, there was no need for him to reply further to the remarks made by the representative of the Soviet Union at the previous meeting.

4. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in its statement at the previous meeting, his delegation had not laid direct responsibility for the incident on the United States authorities or insinuated that they had participated in it. What it had charged, and did charge, was that, as the authorities of the host country, the United States authorities were responsible for ensuring that Missions to the United Nations and their staffs were able to perform

their functions in normal conditions. He could not, therefore, agree with the statement of the United States representative.

5. In his statement, his delegation had suggested that bandit-like activities, such as the shooting incident, occurred because the authorities of the host country did not take adequate steps to prevent them. His delegation had sufficient justification for making that statement because what had taken place was not an isolated incident but one in a whole series of criminal and bandit-like acts directed against the Soviet Union. When it spoke of the host country's responsibility, therefore, his delegation understood such responsibility to mean that it had long been necessary to take steps to protect the Soviet Mission from such acts. That the measures taken were inadequate was proved by the fact that even after the incident in question, the Soviet Mission and the Aeroflot office had again been subjected to further acts of violence. His delegation had every right, therefore, to demand that the host country should take effective steps to protect Missions to the United Nations; responsibility for doing so devolved upon it by virtue of its agreement with the United Nations.

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1435th meeting)

*General discussion (continued)*

6. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that the financial situation of the United Nations was one of the most important issues before the Committee. His delegation agreed with those speakers who had suggested that, in order to avoid bankruptcy, Member States should make voluntary contributions. His delegation was authorized to make such a voluntary contribution at an appropriate time. In the spirit of the consensus reached in 1965,<sup>1</sup> however, the major contributors should first provide a significant sum to wipe out the Organization's deficit. His delegation continued to believe that the deficit was a direct result of the financing of military actions undertaken contrary to the provisions of the Charter. Any assessment on Member States for the financing of those activities could not be binding and could not be regarded as debts.

7. His delegation felt impelled to mention that the 1972 budget estimates did not reflect a state of imminent bankruptcy. Neither in the budget estimates for 1972 nor in the supplementary estimates for 1971 was there any indication that the Secretariat had taken steps to prevent

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1331st meeting, paras. 3-4.

the Organization's financial collapse. The proposed increase in the budget was far greater than the increase in the national income of the overwhelming majority of Member States; indeed, the rate was more than double that of the international community. The notion that there was an obligation on Member States to support exaggerated increases in the budgets of international organizations was unacceptable, particularly since it could not be assumed that such increases would result in proportionate increases in multilateral assistance to the developing nations. Accordingly, his delegation could not vote in favour of the budget estimates for 1972.

8. A comparison of staff expansion and the Secretary-General's statements concerning yearly programme expansion gave a fair picture of recent developments in staff productivity. In order to help Member States to form an opinion about staff productivity, his delegation requested the Secretary-General to provide the Fifth Committee with a table showing the yearly percentage increase in Professional and programme supporting staff and in programme expansion over the last five years.

9. The volume of documentation had reached unmanageable proportions and vigorous action should be taken to prevent its further increase. His delegation was looking forward to the discussions to be held on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the programme of recurrent publications of the United Nations (see A/8362) and on United Nations documentation and the organization of the proceedings of the General Assembly and its main bodies (see A/8319 and Corr.1). Implementation of the recommendations in those reports would be in the interest of both Member States and the Secretariat and, on the basis of those recommendations, the General Assembly should adopt a resolution consisting of clear and concrete provisions which could not be misinterpreted.

10. It was very difficult to understand why the Secretariat had to rely upon the assistance of outside consultants when the required Professional skills were available in the house and when reports prepared by consultants unfamiliar with United Nations practices were often substandard. Furthermore, the Secretariat's practice of submitting several short rather than one comprehensive report on certain subjects caused the General Assembly to spend more time on various problems than was necessary. A further result of that practice was that many of the reports to be submitted to the Fifth Committee for discussion at the current session were not yet available, thus perhaps precluding a meaningful discussion of the questions with which they were concerned.

11. During the general discussion, several members of the Committee had criticized the lack of proper budgetary discipline. In that connexion, the case referred to in paragraph 8.7 of the report on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8458) seemed to indicate financial irresponsibility, for, if the desired results had been obtained at an approximate cost of \$75,000, surely an initial provision in the amount of \$155,000 should not have been made.

12. While the United Nations should not be a profit-making institution, the income sections of the budget could not be disregarded. In view of the fact that some

revenue-producing activities were now showing a deficit, the time had come to reconsider the publications sales policy and the management practices of the Secretariat office concerned, as well as of the Visitors' Service.

13. In conclusion, he suggested that the Fifth Committee's reports to the General Assembly should be as short as those of the First, Second and Fourth Committees, and should contain only discussions on draft resolutions rather than descriptions of the debates. It was time for the Committee, which urged other bodies to reduce documentation, to take such action for itself.

14. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that the Organization's financial situation had never been more critical. According to the Secretary-General, the deterioration in the situation was attributable to unpaid regular budget assessments and to the fact that debts incurred for peace-keeping operations had not been settled. The time had come for all Member States to co-operate in trying to find ways of restoring the Organization's solvency, thus enabling it to fulfil its obligations under the Charter. His delegation joined with those which hoped that Mr. Hambro's endeavours to find a solution to the problem would be crowned with success.

15. His delegation had studied the budget estimates for 1972 very carefully and wished to thank the Secretary-General for the clarity with which he had presented them, particularly in the field of economic and social development and human rights. Unfortunately, the increase in the estimates for 1972 over appropriations for 1971 was attributable to a considerable rise in administrative costs, including adjustments in staff members' salaries, and to international monetary instability, rather than to an increase in the Organization's activities. Although new expenses were a necessary concomitant of the proper functioning of a rapidly developing organization like the United Nations, they should be so managed as to avoid waste, keep purely administrative expenses to the minimum and ensure that maximum resources were devoted to economic and social development programmes. His delegation therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations whereby the budget would be reduced by \$2,400,000.

16. It would be interesting to see the mock-up of the programme budget but it should be noted that such a budget would prove effective only if the necessary prior conditions, including a proper arrangement of basic programmes and establishment of priorities, had been met.

17. It was unfortunate that only the United Nations, WHO and UNDP were using the facilities of the International Computing Centre at Geneva. His delegation joined with the Advisory Committee in appealing to all United Nations agencies to make use of the Centre.

18. At the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly, his delegation had entered reservations to the Headquarters extension project, first, because of the ever-increasing cost of living in New York and, second, because of poor conditions of security for Permanent Missions to the United Nations. A degree of decentralization, consisting in the transfer of certain services to Switzerland, Austria or even a third-world country, should be applied.

19. In so far as part VI of the budget estimates was concerned, his delegation wished to stress that it attached great importance to technical assistance programmes aimed at promoting social progress and raising living standards. It was surprising that, in view of the needs of the developing countries, appropriations under part VI were the same as for 1971. The United Nations should endeavour to play a greater part in technical assistance activities.

20. Referring to section 17, chapter III, he said that his delegation had reservations concerning an appropriation for the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. It was in favour of peace-keeping operations so long as they were justified, but was opposed to the retention of the Commission, which was nothing more than a burden on the Organization's budget. It would be recalled that in his statement to the General Assembly (1965th plenary meeting), the Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs had called for the abolition of the Commission.

21. Mr. SARAMO (Finland) said that the fact that it had been possible, for 10 years, to cover shortfalls in revenue by recourse to various funds at the Secretary-General's disposal had tended to obscure the gravity of the Organization's accumulating deficit and its long-term consequences. The situation had, however, grown so serious that the consequences could no longer be avoided.

22. The financial difficulties of the Organization could not be attributed to actions of the Secretary-General. Furthermore, economies and cuts in future appropriations would not in themselves contribute to the restoration of solvency. Hitherto, the Secretariat had quite appropriately followed a course that could be described as "business as usual". In contrast, however, for 1972 a policy of budgetary restraint was proposed mainly because it was hoped that such action would bring about greater voluntary financial support. If arbitrary restraint did succeed in achieving voluntary support it would have been worthwhile. Efforts should be made, however, to ensure that summary limitation of expenditure would not primarily affect new and dynamic programmes, which were often those of highest priority. Above all, activities connected with the Second United Nations Development Decade should not be prejudiced. Urgent requirements for economic and social development made the only possible budget policy in the economic and social fields one of controlled expansion. In the context of over-all restraint, that implied cuts in expenditure on less essential projects, particularly in administrative costs. Considerable savings could be achieved in the field of documentation. It was gratifying, therefore, to note the savings already achieved by the Advisory Committee in its necessarily voluminous output of paper. His delegation was convinced that the Organization's multiple control and investigatory organs resulted in much duplication of effort without commensurate savings. In that connexion, it endorsed the Brazilian representative's statement (1428th meeting) about the disadvantageous cost-benefit ratio of the proliferation of control machinery and of moves to effect change and reform.

23. Turning to the budget estimates for 1972, he said that almost the whole of the approximately 10 per cent proposed rise in expenditure represented higher costs, only a small percentage being devoted to expansion of activities.

That state of affairs was potentially disruptive of important existing programmes and services and might cause the postponement of programmes which were at the planning stage. It was essential that the repercussions be kept to the minimum.

24. The growth in the United Nations budget had been exaggerated at times. Indeed, it had been stated that it was double the average rate of growth in Member States countries' gross national products. While it was true that the volume of aggregate output in Member countries increased by between 6 and 7 per cent a year, the implied 12 to 14 per cent growth rate in United Nations expenditure referred to actual monetary outlays, not physical volume. On a uniform or value basis, Member countries' gross national product and United Nations expenditure had, over a number of years, increased at approximately the same rate. Thus, the Organization's regular budget should be relatively no greater a burden on its Members now than in the recent past.

25. If a survey of the over-all effects proved it to be feasible, his delegation would endorse the suggestion made by the Secretary-General at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376) that budgetary surpluses should not be returned to Member States but retained in some special account or added to working capital. If adopted on a permanent basis, such a course of action might provide an incentive to economize and, as a consequence, supplementary estimates might prove superfluous. Partial measures were, however, no substitute for the concerted action now needed to save the Organization from insolvency. His delegation hoped that Mr. Hambro's efforts to eliminate the deficit would prove successful and appealed to all Member States to follow the example set by the French delegation and make voluntary contributions.

26. Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) said that the only gleam of hope in the bleak financial situation of the United Nations was the possibility that Mr. Hambro might bring to a successful conclusion the consultations over which he was presiding. Despite the grim warnings of imminent insolvency, the budget estimates continued to expand rapidly.

27. Some of the expansion was due to external factors such as inflation and the recent revaluation of certain currencies, but some of the increased costs should be reconsidered, notably those relating to construction, which represented a waste of funds, and also the costs of existing permanent and temporary staff, and of new posts. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377) had rightly questioned the growing outlays for consultants and temporary assistance. The report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System (A/8428 and Corr.1) would shed further light on the staff situation, but in the meantime there was need for better geographical distribution in the staff.

28. In the field of training, he welcomed the UNITAR proposal that a United Nations Staff College should be established.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 14, paras. 40-44.

29. It was regrettable that more agencies were not using the International Computing Centre in Geneva, and he hoped that other organizations would begin to use the Centre so that it could become truly viable.

30. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, whereas requirements for the year 1972 had originally been estimated at \$207,721,000, supplementary requirements were expected to raise that total to some \$215 million. His delegation was greatly concerned by that unprecedented growth in United Nations expenditure. In the preceding five years, the United Nations budget had risen by some \$100 million and the point had been reached where it was proving impossible to operate the vast administrative machine which had been built up. Further increases in expenditure could only aggravate the difficulties faced by Member States in paying their assessed contributions.

31. As in previous years, the greatest increase was in staff costs and related expenditure. The total requirement for 1972 under section III for salaries and wages alone was \$94,338,000—an increase of some \$8 million by comparison with the preceding year. Staff costs, including provision for temporary assistance and provisional posts, accounted for some 75 per cent of the total budget. Furthermore, although the total number of staff had increased to more than 11,000, the budget estimates for 1972 made provision for the establishment of 308 new posts. Many delegations had expressed concern in previous sessions in the face of the unjustified inflation of the Secretariat staff. Yet the Administration had not reacted at all to their well-founded criticism. Numerous bodies, such as the Administrative Management Service, had been established to study the question of staff resources and many delegations had hoped that such activities would result in recommendations for considerable reductions in staff. His delegation therefore noted with regret that, in most cases, the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service, following its survey of various departments, would result not in a reduction but in an actual increase in staff. In the case of ECE, ECAFÉ, and ECLA and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, it was proposed that a total of 49 provisional posts should be transferred to the permanent manning tables and that a further 60 new posts should be provided.

32. The decentralization of economic and social activities presupposed considerable reductions in staff at Headquarters, principally in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Yet such a reduction was not taking place; instead, the staff of that Department was increasing year by year. His delegation had studied the reaction of the Secretariat to the Administrative Management Service's proposals concerning the staffing of departments in which the manpower utilization survey had been completed. It had found that where the Service's recommendations involved an increase in staff, they had met with the most cordial response from the authors of the budget. The budget estimates contained frequent references to such recommendations to justify increases in staff. On the rare occasions, however, when the Service's recommendations involved a reduction in staff, they were ignored. In that connexion, it could well be asked on what basis the

Secretariat sought appropriations to provide for 14 new posts under section 15 for UNCTAD. In paragraph 232 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972, the Advisory Committee argued against the inclusion of such an unjustified provision in the estimates. It was a matter of regret that the Advisory Committee was inconsistent in its recommendations and seemingly feared that the very small reductions in staff which it proposed would anger the Secretariat. The reduction of merely four posts under section 15 which it had recommended was inadequate and his delegation proposed that there should be no increase at all in the staff of UNCTAD in 1972.

33. He drew attention to the fact that, although the manpower utilization survey had not yet been extended to all areas of the Secretariat and would not be completed before 1972, the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 contained a request for 54 provisional posts for the Office of General Services, the Office of Personnel and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and six new posts for special missions. That was an attempt by the Secretariat to prejudge the outcome of the survey. From its experience, his delegation doubted the impartiality of the Administrative Management Service and questioned the desirability of its further existence.

34. The Advisory Committee's first report contained useful suggestions which deserved consideration by the Fifth Committee—in particular, those in paragraphs 40, 110, 116 and 122, regarding the productivity of the Secretariat—a question to which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had also referred in his statement at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377). It was a fact that, if the Secretariat made better use of its internal resources, there would be no need for it to press for budgetary increases. His delegation would like to see an increased awareness on the part of the Secretariat staff of the problems confronting the Organization reflected in higher productivity, in which case staff members might find it possible to spend less time in the cafeteria or playing chess during working hours. Efforts should be made to inculcate a feeling for economy on the part of staff members. Unhappily, such an attitude was not prevalent—as was obvious from the fact that after working hours the Secretariat blazed with electric lights, regardless of the high cost to the Organization of electricity. A more economical approach to the use of resources by staff would also make it possible to reduce expenditure on such other items as postage and communications.

35. The time had come for the Fifth Committee to put an end to the unjustified expansion of United Nations expenditure and to take a decision that United Nations staff should be reduced or should not exceed the 1971 level. Furthermore, provisional posts and temporary assistance should be abolished and all appropriations for them eliminated. Those proposals would in no way reduce the effectiveness of the Secretariat; indeed, it would increase it.

36. His delegation was alarmed by the very considerable expenditure involved in the provision for additional staff. Nor was there any justification for expenditure on new construction in New York City. Allocations for that purpose should be transferred for construction in other

parts of the world. One reason against new construction was the bandit-like attacks on the Missions of Member States, the most recent example being that of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in which building his own Mission was also situated. Yet another factor was the continuous inflation characteristic of New York.

37. The financial storms sweeping the capitalist world had an adverse effect on the financial operations of the United Nations. The recent revaluation of the Swiss and Austrian currencies were likely to cost the Organization some \$4 million. Thus, countries which were in no way responsible for the disorders of the capitalist world were unfairly required to bear the burden. That burden was increased by the rising cost of living in the Headquarters host country. The Advisory Committee would do well to consider the problem of how to protect such countries and the Organization itself from the effects of the currency crises and inflation.

38. His delegation shared the general concern at the Organization's current administrative and financial situation and it was prepared to seek ways of resolving that situation together with all States and in a spirit of respect for its position of principle. The situation was unlikely to improve, however, until a régime of strict economy was instituted by the Fifth Committee and the Secretariat and steps were taken to abolish all unjustified expenditure. He pointed out that the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, entailing expenditures incurred in contradiction to the Charter, consumed some \$500,000 annually. By contrast, only some \$100,000 had been allocated for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in 1970. At the same time it was being proposed that \$300,000 should be cut from the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, whose work was fully consonant with the purposes of the United Nations. Not a few examples of that kind were to be found in the budget estimates. His delegation was not automatically opposed to all expenditure and it invariably supported that destined to serve the purposes of the United Nations. Nevertheless, it would continue to oppose unjustifiable outlays. It would therefore vote against any financial appropriation for payment of interest on the United Nations bond issue, the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. His delegation also considered it anomalous that the United Nations should finance technical assistance under sections 13 and 14, in contradiction with Article 17 of the Charter. Such expenditure should be financed on an exclusively voluntary basis from the budget of UNDP. His Government would continue to contribute to the expenditure on technical assistance in its national currency.

39. His delegation's proposals, and the constructive suggestion of other States, would, if implemented, contribute to the elimination of the current financial difficulties, avoid excessive expenditure and increase the effectiveness of the United Nations.

## AGENDA ITEM 75

### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (continued) (A/8458, A/8471, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7)

40. The CHAIRMAN introduced document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7 containing a proposal to be considered by the Committee which read:

“The Fifth Committee approves additional expenditures for 1971 in the amount of \$2,478,500 and increased estimates of income by the amount of \$478,500”.

41. The Secretariat had informed him that a statement of the Secretary-General's intentions regarding the question of accommodation at Headquarters could be made early the following week. He invited the Committee to decide whether it would take up the proposal before it forthwith or defer consideration of it to allow discussion of the question of accommodation and construction at Headquarters.

42. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that he would prefer to defer the discussion until he had heard the statement of the Secretary-General's intentions.

43. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) agreed with the United States representative.

44. Mr. GUPTA (India) saw no reason to defer a decision on the proposal before the Committee, which could be taken on the understanding that any necessary adjustments could be made in the estimates once the building programme had been discussed.

45. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) agreed with the representative of India.

46. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) agreed with the representative of India. The Committee should separate the question of action on the supplementary estimates from its discussion of accommodation and construction at Headquarters.

47. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) and Mr. NAITO (Japan) agreed with the United States representative.

48. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7 had removed the confusion which had existed during the previous meeting and there was no reason why the Committee should not proceed at once to a discussion of it.

49. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) felt that the question of the supplementary estimates and that of construction at Headquarters should be kept separate.

50. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that the proposal in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7 before the Committee was not clear and his delegation could not support it as it stood since it involved approval of expenditure which was not balanced by income in the same amount. He agreed with the United States representative that discussion of it should be deferred until the question of construction at Headquarters had been discussed.

51. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the document before the Committee was not entirely satisfactory; in some ways it went too far and in others not far enough. Discussion of it should be deferred as the United States representative had suggested.

52. Mr. GUPTA (India), speaking on a point of order, moved that, under rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee should close its discussion of whether or not to defer consideration of the supplementary estimates in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7.

53. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Indian motion was tantamount to halting debate on the substance of the issue and he was opposed to it. Furthermore, the proposal before the Committee was not clear. Delegations could not approve it without expressing their views on the supplementary estimates as a whole. He therefore supported the United States proposal.

54. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) endorsed the comments of the USSR and United States representatives.

55. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Indian motion.

*The Indian motion was defeated by 46 votes to 10, with 17 abstentions.*

56. Mr. GUPTA (India) observed that, at the outset of its work during the current session, the Committee had decided to postpone the first reading of the 1972 budget estimates because the supplementary estimates for 1971 had not been discussed. It had now decided to postpone discussion of the supplementary estimates because the question of construction at Headquarters had not been discussed. It remained to be seen whether discussion of the question of construction at Headquarters would, in its turn, be postponed.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that, in view of its action on the Indian motion, the Committee decided to defer consideration of document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7 until it had discussed the question of construction at Headquarters, following the statement of the Secretary-General's intentions in that connexion.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 79

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):\*  
(c) Board of Auditors (A/8353, A/C.5/1374)

58. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to documents A/8353 and A/C.5/1374, and invited the Committee to designate an Auditor-General, or officer holding the equivalent title, of a Member State to fill the

vacancy which would occur in the Board of Auditors on 30 June 1972.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Bendjenna (Algeria) and Mr. Nsubuga (Uganda) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	79
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	78
<i>Abstentions:</i>	5
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	73
<i>Required majority:</i>	37

*Number of votes obtained:*

The Auditor-General of Colombia . . . . .	72
The Auditor-General of Bhutan . . . . .	1

*The Auditor-General of Colombia having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended his appointment as a member of the Board of Auditors for a further three-year term beginning on 1 July 1972.*

59. The CHAIRMAN said the Rapporteur would report directly to the General Assembly on the matter.

(e) United Nations Administrative Tribunal (A/8355 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1382)

60. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to documents A/8355 and Corr.1 and A/C.5/1382, and invited it to designate two persons to fill the vacancies which would occur in the Administrative Tribunal on 31 December 1971.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Bendjenna (Algeria) and Mr. Nsubuga (Uganda) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	78
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	2
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	76
<i>Abstentions:</i>	5
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	71
<i>Required majority:</i>	36

*Number of votes obtained:*

Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton . . . . .	69
Sir Roger Bentham Stevens . . . . .	66
Lord Crook . . . . .	4

*Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton (United States of America) and Sir Roger Bentham Stevens (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended their appointment as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1972.*

61. The CHAIRMAN said the Rapporteur would report directly to the General Assembly on the matter.

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 1428th meeting.



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1-2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. FERNÁNDEZ MAROTO (Spain) expressed surprise that, despite the grave financial situation of the United Nations, the budget estimates for 1972 represented a sharp increase over those for 1971. Surely the first aim now must be to resolve the financial crisis before any increased expenditure for the future was contemplated. Plans must, of course, be made for the coming year, but they should take full account of the present financial difficulties. That was not the approach adopted. The significant limit of \$200 million had been considerably exceeded, and the increase would have a marked effect on the financial obligations of Member States to the Organization.

2. Spain now stood sixteenth on the list of contributors, and its percentage contribution had risen from 0.73 per cent for the years 1965-1967, to 0.92 per cent for the years 1968-1970, and finally, to 1.04 per cent for the years 1971-1973. As that increase had gone hand in hand with a steady increase in the level of the total costs apportioned among Member States, Spain's financial obligations to the United Nations had risen sharply. Nevertheless, they had been promptly met. Spain was not among the countries responsible for the fact that only a third of the contribution due for 1971 had been received as noted by the chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the 1427th meeting (see A/C.5/1377). Obviously immediate efforts should be made to collect the contributions outstanding—in other words, to comply with the Financial Regulations of the Organization—in order to alleviate the cash crisis.

3. As to the long-term financial difficulties, it was to be hoped that Mr. Hambro's efforts would lead to some solution, as a result of the favourable response to the appeal he had made at the 1346th meeting (see A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8).

4. With respect to the budget estimates for 1972, he thought the reductions proposed by the Advisory Com-

mittee in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, through acceptable, were insufficient. The estimates should be brought into line with the finances actually available, as Spain had recommended at earlier sessions. If that attitude was not adopted at the earliest stage of budget preparation, on the basis of a rational order of priorities, it was very difficult for the Fifth Committee to attempt to make any cuts in the total figures for various items at the final stage.

5. Clearly, a revision of budgetary procedures was required without delay. It would be most instructive to see the model budget outline or mock-up that was to be submitted, and he supported the view of the Advisory Committee which, in paragraph 21 of document A/8217,<sup>1</sup> suggested that the Secretary-General might conduct an experiment in a representative area of the Secretariat by recording and administering, as if the new procedures were, in effect, theoretical allotments for the area in question derived from the mock-up, but corresponding in amount to the funds that would actually be available for activities in the selected area under the present system of appropriation and allocation of funds.

6. With respect to a biennial budget cycle, he referred to paragraph 28 of the same document and said that once the necessary information had been supplied by the Secretary-General, it was to be hoped that the two-year budget cycle could be instituted, as it had been with advantage in some specialized agencies. Spain had stressed the benefits of that reform at several earlier sessions of the General Assembly.

7. With regard to the International Computing Centre at Geneva, he hoped that the report requested from the Secretary-General (see A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 218) would pave the way for the Centre to be properly staffed and fully utilized.

8. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) said that the Secretary-General had made clear the gravity of the financial crisis facing the Organization. Warnings had long been sounded about its finances, and in 1965 certain measures had been introduced to prevent waste and increase efficiency. They had not sufficed to prevent the present crisis. Now urgent action was required if the United Nations was to be able to continue to discharge its functions in maintaining world peace and security and promoting economic progress. He agreed with Mr. Hambro that positions of principle taken by Governments of Member States must be respected, but considered that it was in the interests of all Members to ensure the continued functioning of the Organization. Nevertheless, the primary responsibility for doing so lay

<sup>1</sup> Document relating to agenda item 80 of the Twenty-fifth Session, issued separately (offset).



with the members of the Security Council and with the major contributors. He particularly welcomed the voluntary contribution of some \$4 million by France, made in advance of any general agreement, and with no conditions attached. He hoped that other major contributors would also find it possible to make a voluntary contribution without delay. That would both ease the cash situation and help towards an agreement to delete from the budget such controversial items as those relating to the United Nations bond issue, the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, which had greatly added to the financial difficulties.

9. It was regrettable that the Organization should be in such financial straits at a time when it should be expanding its activities in economic and social development. He did not agree with the view of some developed countries that no new programmes should be undertaken until the financial problem had been solved. It appeared that the final figures for the 1972 budget estimates would be about \$215 million, representing an increase of about 11 per cent over 1971. But only a fraction represented expansion of programme activities, the remainder reflecting only increases such, for example, as in costs and salaries, currency revaluations. The real increase was far too small to enable the Organization to pursue the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The United Nations could not solve all economic and social ills, but in view of the widening gap between the rich and poor nations, its efforts were not commensurate with world needs. It was an outworn notion that development problems were not of common concern. The President of IBRD, in his address to the Board of Governors, had said that in some developing countries the malnutrition in children aged 1-2 years was a hundred times higher than in the developed countries, and in some countries the infant mortality was 200 per 1,000, because of lack of food during the first year of life. No civilized nation could ignore such figures. The expansion of the 1972 budget estimates in real terms was very modest in relation to world needs, and Iran would accordingly support the Secretary-General's statements, in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

10. His delegation was concerned to increase the resources of the United Nations, but at the same time it wished to see economies made. There was still room for improved productivity. The Administrative Management Service had made useful recommendations concerning the computer and economic and social units of the Organization, and the Joint Inspection Unit had made a valuable contribution towards achieving the 15 per cent reduction in documentation recommended by the Administrative Management Service. The Advisory Committee had endorsed the idea of an integrated programme and budgeting approach, and of a high-level Secretariat committee to carry it out; however, he hoped that the new approach would not be used as an excuse to reduce further the already low rate of growth of the budget.

11. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had pointed out at the 1427th meeting that the United Nations deficit represented approximately 0.03 per cent of the national product of all the Member States. For the developing

countries, it represented a large sum, but for the developed countries, especially the major contributors, voluntary contributions of twice that order would be insignificant. He accordingly hoped that the major contributors would do more to lead the way to the Organization's full financial recovery.

12. Mr. NARKHUU (Mongolia) said that, in keeping with his country's foreign policy principles of peace and friendship among nations, it supported the United Nations as an instrument for the maintenance of peace and security. It was accordingly deeply concerned over the present financial crisis and would welcome any compromise solution based on existing consensus or decisions.

13. Mongolia was perturbed by the ever-rising level of the budget estimates. The initial estimates amounted to about 8 per cent more than the approved 1971 appropriation and in addition \$2.2 million had been requested as supplementary estimates. That meant that the reduction of \$1.8 million in the 1971 budget estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee and approved by the General Assembly was valid only on paper. Such uncontrolled expansion would increase the financial difficulties and adversely affect the capacity of many Member States to meet their budgetary obligations. The suggestions already made to curtail unnecessary expenditure deserved the Fifth Committee's serious consideration.

14. On the other hand, Mongolia did not oppose all expansion of the budget. Increases were acceptable if they reflected increases in legitimate activities in compliance with the provisions of the Charter. But the present yearly rate of increase in the United Nations budget was twice the average growth rate of the national income of Member States. The staff costs appeared highly inflated: they now accounted for about 75 per cent of the total. In recent years, the staff had increased by over 2,500, yet 308 additional posts were requested for 1972, costing a further sum of nearly \$2 million. The Administrative Management Service had clearly not followed the path of economy and rational use of resources. The Secretariat could well meet all present requirements and those of the foreseeable future without any additional posts. He therefore fully supported the proposal by the USSR and Poland to freeze the manning table at the 1971 level, particularly since the manpower survey had not yet been completed.

15. With respect to geographical distribution, the situation was far from satisfactory. Bias at the higher Secretariat levels had created a situation where the socialist and developing countries were still under-represented. Thus the Secretariat, instead of consisting of impartial international officials, had become Western-oriented. The relevant General Assembly decisions governing the composition of the Secretariat should be implemented without delay.

16. His delegation was opposed to any extra expenditure on expansion of premises and new construction, above all in New York. In view of the inflation in the United States, any new building there might lead to further serious financial difficulty for the Organization. That was also one reason for proposing that some main organs of the United Nations should be transferred to cheaper, and safer, parts of the world. He deplored recent acts jeopardizing the safety

of diplomats and their families committed by subjects of the host country, above all the criminal acts of the Jewish Defense League against the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations and the failure of the authorities to meet their international obligations to guarantee the safety of the staffs of the permanent missions.

17. Additional economies in the budget could be made in such areas as special meetings and conferences, public information activities and printing services. Mongolia strongly objected to the inclusion in the budget of costs of activities undertaken in violation of the Charter, such as the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, the maintenance of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and costs relating to bonds issued by the United Nations. UNCURK was an illegal body serving the aggressive policy of those whose armed forces still occupied South Korea and thus stood in the way of the reunification of the Korean people. Such items should be removed from the budget, and no responsibility to pay for such illegal expenditures was incumbent on any of the peace-loving Member States.

18. At the beginning of its second quarter-century, the United Nations had a swollen budget of over \$200 million and a deficit of about the same amount. The reason was not the failure of Member States to pay their contributions or the expansion of the role of the United Nations. There were three main reasons: illegal actions undertaken in violation of the Charter under the pressure of certain Powers, the overloading of the Organization with secondary issues, sometimes of national import, and lastly, extravagant and irrational spending of resources. The only way to correct the deficit was to delete illegal items from the budget, establish a priority order of activities to be carried out and ensure better use of existing resources through proper financial control. Any constructive proposals to reduce the budget estimates would be supported by his delegation.

19. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by previous speakers about the Organization's financial plight. As a developing country, Iraq had placed high hopes in the ability of the United Nations to improve the lot of the less privileged peoples of the world. It had noted with satisfaction, therefore, that by establishing new bodies such as UNDP, UNIDO, UNCTAD and UNITAR the Organization had demonstrated its ability to cope with development issues of interest to the countries of the third world. The fact that the Organization's activities were not commensurate with the needs of those countries was attributable, in the main, to the lack of resources. Despite the Secretary-General's expressed hope that the development programme would constitute a partnership between Member States on the one hand and organizations of the United Nations system on the other, the spirit of internationalism was lacking and certain developed countries preferred to concentrate on bilateral rather than multilateral development programmes. The effectiveness of the Organization was further hampered by the fact that some countries disregarded the provisions of the Charter and refused to comply with General Assembly resolutions, thus jeopardizing international peace and security. Indeed, as the Secretary-General had said in an address on the occasion of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the United

Nations, the Organization had fallen short of expectations and its authority and prestige were being eroded. Fortunately, the countries which defied the Organization's authority did not form part of the third world, but it was regrettable that they did receive support from certain developed countries.

20. Unless the prevailing financial crisis was solved immediately, the Organization faced the prospect of disintegration. It was to France's credit, therefore, that it had decided to make a voluntary contribution. It was significant that the contribution, which could be regarded as a call for re-establishment of the principle of collective responsibility towards the Organization, was unconditional and in no way compromised France's position of principle on certain of the Organization's financial activities. It was to be hoped that all States, but particularly the major contributors, would heed the appeals of the Secretary-General and Mr. Hambro and make voluntary contributions during the current session.

21. The statement by the head of the United States delegation at the 1431st meeting to the effect that the views of certain members of Congress concerning future United States contributions should the General Assembly decide to expel the Republic of China were not those of the United States Government had lessened but not dispelled his delegation's misgivings, for the experience of the ILO must be borne in mind in any discussion of the question. There was no denying that by its Declaration concerning the Policy of *Apartheid* of the Republic of South Africa, its policies for the achievement of economic and social rights, the establishment of the International Institute for Labour Studies and the International Centre of Advanced Technical and Vocational Training, the ILO had made a significant contribution towards the solution of labour problems and furthered the interests of the developing countries. Despite that contribution, the ILO was experiencing such financial difficulties that it had been obliged to discontinue or curtail programmes of value to the developing countries. Untold harm had been done by one major contributor withholding its contribution.

22. Surely Member States would not allow the Organization, which represented mankind's best hope for peace and the respect of human rights throughout the world, to disintegrate for lack of funds. It was heartening, therefore, that, according to Mr. Hambro (see A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8), the major Powers had recognized the seriousness of the problem and the necessity for voluntary contributions.

23. In conclusion, he said that he wished to join with the Secretary-General in calling on all Member States to adjust their attitudes and practices to the conditions of the world in 1971 and to muster the moral strength and wisdom to move forward the noble goals on which they were all agreed.

24. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) emphasized the precarious financial situation of the Organization. Total demands on the United Nations far exceeded available or expected resources. The rise in demands could be attributed to the fact that more developing countries had joined the Organization. It must be realized, however, that those countries' demands were justified by the condition in which they had

found themselves when they had attained independence. Obviously, their share in United Nations economic and social activities was considerable, but it should be noted that they were requesting no more than assistance in satisfying basic nutritional, educational and health needs; they did not aspire to the state of affluence of the developed countries.

25. The considerable increase in the 1972 budget estimates over the 1971 appropriations was attributable to factors beyond the Secretary-General's control—increases in the cost of goods and services, staff salaries, construction and maintenance expenses and the unstable currency situation—rather than to an expansion of the Organization's activities. Since a curtailment of the United Nations activities would jeopardize international peace and security and hamper achievement of the primary aim of the Charter, namely, the promotion of international co-operation for social progress, his delegation would support all measures, particularly those advocated by Mr. Hambro, designed to liquidate the Organization's deficit. Self-discipline, the establishment of a firm system of priorities and sound budgetary control would seem to be required if the discrepancy between the total work programme, as determined by resolutions of the Organization's legislative organs, and the total resources Member States were prepared to contribute for implementation of that programme was to be eliminated.

26. It seemed necessary also to adopt an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting within the Organization. If it was to achieve its objectives, a budget must be presented correctly. It was gratifying, therefore, that steps were being taken to present the budget by activities or programmes rather than by objects of expenditure or by department. However, a gradual and balanced approach to that complex and highly technical matter was required. Indeed, the best approach to budgetary questions would seem to be that advocated by the Egyptian representative at the 1430th meeting, namely, better planning, improved co-ordination, a clearer definition of priorities, better evaluation of results and stricter control of the use of resources since they were not unlimited.

*Arrangements concerning emoluments and pensions of Members of the International Court of Justice (A/8408/Add.2; A/C.5/1364)*

27. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the proposals of the Secretary-General, as set forth in his report (A/C.5/1364), concerning the emoluments and pensions of Members of the International Court of Justice, as well as to the report (A/8408/Add.2) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

28. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, asked what was the basis for the proposed increase in the emoluments of Members of the International Court of Justice, whose present remuneration compared favourably with that of judges of national supreme courts or their equivalents. In view of the serious financial situation of the Organization, a further increase in the budget seemed inappropriate. If the Advisory Committee could supply comparative figures for emoluments of judges of national supreme courts and judges of the Court, the Fifth Committee's task would be facilitated.

29. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, taking account of the Noblemaire principle, which could not be applied with any exactitude in the case in question, the highest emoluments were paid by the United States Supreme Court, whose Chief Justice received gross annual emoluments of \$62,500 and whose members received gross annual emoluments of \$60,000. The figure proposed in paragraph 7 of the Advisory Committee's report was net; if grossed up by the application of staff assessment it would amount to \$57,000. With the addition of the duty allowances recommended in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, the emoluments of the President of the Court would amount, in gross terms, to \$37,600. However, whether account should be taken of the duty allowance would depend on whether it was regarded as an expense, or some other kind of, allowance.

30. In reply to a further question raised by the representative of the Soviet Union, he read out the annual emoluments, all of which were subject to national income tax, received by the chief justices and members of the supreme courts of Canada, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and by the President and members of the Court of Justice of the European Economic Community.<sup>2</sup>

31. There was no exact equivalence between abatement for staff assessment and national income tax. Staff assessment did not exceed 50 per cent whereas in some countries income tax on salaries of the level under discussion was considerably higher.

32. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the Advisory Committee's recommendations be put to the vote.

33. The CHAIRMAN said that, if the Fifth Committee approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, as set forth in paragraphs 7 to 10 of its report (A/8408/Add.2), an appropriately worded draft resolution would be included in the Fifth Committee's report on agenda item 76 and the additional financial requirements would be taken into account in the second reading of section 19 of the budget estimates.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendations were adopted by 72 votes to 9.*

<sup>2</sup> The information read out was the following:

<i>Canada</i>	
Chief Justice . . . . .	\$47,000 plus \$2,000 extra duty allowance;
Member . . . . .	\$42,000 plus \$2,000 extra duty allowance.
<i>Switzerland</i>	
Chief Justice of the Court . .	\$24,050 plus a complicated child allowance;
Member . . . . .	\$21,520 plus a complicated child allowance.
<i>United Kingdom</i>	
Chief Justice of the Court . .	\$40,000 plus provision of a car;
Member . . . . .	\$37,200.
<i>Court of Justice of the European Economic Community</i>	
President . . . . .	\$37,600 basic salary
	plus \$ 5,635 non-residence allowance
	plus \$ 6,210 representation allowance;
Member . . . . .	\$30,630
	plus \$ 4,596 non-residence allowance
	plus \$ 2,660 representation allowance.

*First reading (continued)\* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 11. PRINTING (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1366)

34. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended, in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, that the estimate of \$3,288,000 for section 11 submitted by the Secretary-General in the budget estimates (A/8406) be reduced by \$70,000 and, in its second report (A/8408/Add.1), that the additional amount of \$29,490 requested by the Secretary-General (see A/C.5/1366) be reduced by \$18,790.

35. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that expenditure under section 11 related to printing which was primarily, though not exclusively, contractual. Thus, chapter VIII made provision for internal reproduction supplies, consisting principally of paper. It excluded overheads relating to internal printing, which were spread over other sections, and also excluded the cost of producing for sales purposes additional copies of publications provided for under chapters II, III and IV. He drew attention to paragraph 26 of the report on recurrent publications by Mr. Macy of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8362), which gave background information on the question of the deduction for internal reproduction in chapter VII. The Macy report had a distinct bearing on section 11 as a whole—both generally, with regard to the question of the presentation of the deduction for internal printing which, if programme budgeting procedures were introduced would have to be examined further, and, specifically, in respect of the impact of its recommendations on the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee was still awaiting the Secretary-General's comments on the Macy report. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$20,000 under chapter II.

36. The Advisory Committee had also recommended a reduction of \$25,000 in chapter III for studies and reports because it considered that the Secretary-General could and should exert greater influence on the volume of work in the area in question. It had recommended an increase of \$25,000 in chapter VII under the heading of deduction for internal reproduction, for the reasons given in paragraph 201 of its first report.

37. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations in respect of section 11. In particular, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee, as it had stated in paragraph 202 of its first report, that the Secretary-General should endeavour to secure the widest possible geographic distribution of printing contracts at the lowest cost consistent with the required standards. In that connexion, he requested further information from the Secretariat with regard to the placing of contract printing, with specific reference to the developing countries, particularly in view of the fact that some 60 per cent of total printing expenditure in 1972 would be incurred in areas outside Headquarters.

\* Resumed from the 1432nd meeting.

38. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) said that his delegation concurred in the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a reduction of \$20,000 under chapter II. It was to be hoped that the Macy report would lead to a closer scrutiny of titles printed under that chapter and the elimination of publications which had outlived their original purposes. His delegation also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a reduction of \$25,000 under chapter III and agreed that the Secretary-General should be able to exercise a restraining influence on the volume of studies and reports. He strongly endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 199 of the Advisory Committee's report that steps should be taken to promote sales of the *UN Monthly Chronicle* and to review the free distribution list. He joined the Advisory Committee in urging the Secretary-General to endeavour to secure the widest possible geographical distribution of printing contracts and to ensure that manuscripts were submitted on time.

39. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) asked what steps has been taken to ensure that manuscripts were submitted on time for printing and to secure the widest possible geographic distribution of contracts.

40. Mr. GUPTA (India) recalled that, in the debate on agenda item 74, his delegation had requested (1427th meeting) an oral report on steps taken to ensure the widest possible geographic distribution of printing contracts. His delegation was deeply disturbed by the statements, in paragraph 11.4 (b) of the budget estimates, that an internal ruling had been made that costs related to the printing of the proceedings of seminars should no longer be provided for under section 11, as had been the case in certain instances in the past. What was the exact amount involved? On what basis had the internal ruling by the Secretary-General been made? He did not agree that section 11 should no longer contain provisions for such printing although, if a Government decided to assume the printing costs related to a particular seminar, that was obviously a different matter.

41. Mr. BROWN (Australia) asked for clarification as to the point in time at which contracts for printing were placed for a given year. If the decision regarding the placing of contracts for 1972 had already been made, the Fifth Committee would be inhibited in making suggestions for cost reductions.

42. Mr. NAUDY (France), referring to the printing of the *Judgements of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal*, (see A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 197) said that the judgements were of considerable practical and theoretical value and should be readily available. They should continue to be printed, internally if necessary.

43. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) recalled that, during the Fifth Committee's discussion at the twenty-fifth session (1368th meeting) he had explained in detail the steps taken by the Secretariat to implement the recommendations of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee concerning the geographical distribution of printing contracts. At the time, the Secretary-General had requested information from all Permanent Missions to the United Nations regarding their national printing capabilities and the Fifth Committee had been

informed of their replies. Efforts to spread printing contracts on a wider geographical basis would continue; in recent years, they had led to the use of printers from some 36 Member States whereas, earlier, contracts would have been placed in approximately 10 States. He emphasized, however, that work placed in the Headquarters area—the United States and Canada—included all publications work which could not be placed outside that area. It included publications such as the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, the *UN Monthly Chronicle* and the *Yearbook of the United Nations* which had to be produced in the area where the editorial teams were situated. It also included items which had to be produced at extremely short notice and administrative forms stocked on a two- or three-week replacement basis. The value of such work placed in the Headquarters area in 1970 had been \$450,000 in the case of the United States and \$250,000 for Canada. As much of the work as possible had been transferred from the United States to Canada, where prices were some 12 per cent lower, and savings of not less than \$50,000 per annum had been achieved. Such transfers could be made only if the delay involved was tolerable for the ordering department.

44. United Nations publications printing work had been distributed to Belgium, France, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia, Singapore, China, Thailand, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Mexico, Afghanistan, Algeria, Brazil, Burma, Ceylon, Denmark, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Egypt, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia. The work so distributed included publications budgeted under sections other than 11 and 2. It might be possible to reduce still further the share of publications work assigned in the United States and Canada, but no drastic reduction could be made without seriously affecting the value of the publications themselves. An average publication order placed for printing in the Headquarters area was delivered within four to six weeks, whereas four to six months was required for the same work placed in Europe. Printing delays could cause serious concern to departments which were naturally vitally interested in ensuring that their publications should not lose impact by being issued late.

45. Printing work assigned to the Headquarters area in addition to the category of work which he had described was almost all of a special character; for example, no chapter III work was budgeted for the Headquarters area except that necessitated by a need for more urgent delivery or that which could not be executed by the United Nations own printing facilities.

46. Replying to the representative of France, he said that, for technical reasons, the printing of the *Judgements of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal* could not be carried out internally. United Nations equipment was not suitable for the type of printing required.

47. As to the question of the sales promotion of the *UN Monthly Chronicle*, he said that of the 17,000 copies currently printed in English, 3,000 were for official distribution and 14,000 for sale; of the 2,700 French language copies printed, 2,100 were for official distribution and 600 for sale while, of the 2,500 Spanish language

copies printed, 1,650 were for official distribution and 850 for sale. In addition, up to 3,000 copies of the English version were printed in India by special arrangement with the Office of Public Information. The Sales Section placed particular emphasis on the *Chronicle* in its promotional activities. A direct mail campaign to promote the French and Spanish versions in university and similar circles had yielded limited results. The *Chronicle* was also prominently mentioned in catalogues of United Nations publications. It was hoped that increased promotional activities would offset the negative effect of the current economic situation and new emphasis was to be placed on the *Chronicle* in a sales campaign directed towards librarians. While some increase in the circulation of the English language version might be forthcoming in the short- and medium-term, provided there was no further deterioration in the general economic situation, any substantial increase in sales of the French and Spanish versions would have to be approached as a long-term objective.

48. The Publications Board had frequently discussed the question of the late submission of manuscripts and, as Chairman of that Board, he himself had discussed the question with the Board of Auditors. He had suggested that the Auditors should make a clear recommendation to the General Assembly that under no circumstances should printing work originally budgeted for production in Europe or elsewhere be shifted to the Headquarters area. The essence of the problem, however, was that, for a variety of reasons, substantive departments were often unable to submit manuscripts on time.

49. Replying to the representative of Egypt, he said that the Secretary-General intended to submit his comments on the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning recurrent publications by the end of the month.

50. Replying to the representative of India, he said that provisions for printing work connected with seminars financed from extra-budgetary funds had never been made in advance under section 11. The budget estimates for section 11 for any given financial year were discussed by the Publications Board in March or April of the preceding year, at which time it was not known when or where these seminars would be held. He considered that the internal ruling on the subject was correct: it would be most difficult to make any estimates of the cost of printing related to seminars which were no more than a possibility when the Publications Board prepared its estimates.

51. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had an interesting point with regard to chapters VII and VIII of section 11. The situation had been for many years that work carried out by the internal printing facilities of the United Nations was in two main categories: parliamentary work—documents and records for meetings and conferences; and non-parliamentary work. The reproduction plant, on its establishment, had been equipped only for parliamentary work. Such work required a peak capacity to cope with work for the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, and the printing plant had to be able to meet all internal requirements during those peak periods. Spare capacity could exist at other times and was used for non-parliamentary work in order to relieve the budget from external printing expenses.

52. The Macy report (see A/8362) had recommended, in paragraph 4, that a revised system of costing was essential in that connexion. The Secretariat had studied that recommendation and had concluded that it would be possible to establish clearly the costs related to various jobs carried out under section 11 and, consequently, that chapter VII should be abolished completely. He pointed out that chapter VIII of section 11, relating to supplies for internal reproduction, had not existed before 1970; this provision had previously been included under section 10. The very considerable list of items reproduced internally to make the most economical use of reproduction capacity included, for example, Office of Public Information press

releases, administrative forms and stationery. Those items were not budgeted for under section 11; indeed, they were only related to the budget under chapter VIII. What was expressed under chapter VII, therefore, was the work done by the internal reproduction service in aid of budgeted items only; the total value of the non-parliamentary work done internally in 1970 exceeded \$1,250,000, of which only some \$629,000 related to budgeted items. Since chapter VII was misleading, he hoped the Secretariat's suggestion that it should be deleted would be accepted.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1438th meeting)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) said that, although the financial situation of the United Nations had long been unsatisfactory, the continuing erosion of its solvency in the past year had brought the problem into focus as never before. In the consensus adopted on 1 September 1965,<sup>1</sup> the General Assembly had suggested a remedy in the form of voluntary contributions which, in the case of highly developed countries, were to be substantial. His delegation regretted that the appeal for voluntary contributions still went unheeded by so many but welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, to find a solution. His Government pledged its support of those efforts and was also heartened that France had joined (see A/C.5/1384) the earlier contributors.

2. The solution of the whole question of the Organization's solvency involved political considerations and positions of principle but one issue, namely, that of the date for payment of assessed contributions to the regular budget could be dealt with separately. General Assembly resolution 456 (V), of 16 November 1950, had laid down the relevant rules under which such payment was due, usually, not later than February of the current budget year. It was difficult to understand why all Member States did not comply with that firm and accepted obligation. A marked improvement in that respect would alleviate the unacceptable cash situation, which compelled the Organization to live from hand to mouth. As a small step towards an improvement, the Secretary-General might circulate, at the beginning of each quarter, a statement of the contributions due from all Member States, excluding contributions withheld on principle, and the amount paid by each State by that date.

3. His Government was concerned at the steady increase in the budget every year but believed that there were causes for that trend—one being that substantive programmes had grown considerably in number and size as the Organization's membership had increased. The Organization's work had consequently been directed to vital economic and social problems, notwithstanding its primary task of main-

taining peace and security in accordance with the Charter. He noted in that connexion that the proportion of economically and socially oriented expenditure under the 1971 budget was estimated at 66 per cent of the regular budget—indirect costs included. In recent years, the United Nations had also assumed responsibility for urgent issues in fields such as outer space and the environment. That development, unaccompanied by any reduction in existing economic and social responsibilities, was a sign of the health, vigour and importance of the Organization; acceptance of those new tasks implied acceptance of the allocation of increased resources for new functions. The provision of such resources, in money terms, did not seem to be an insurmountable obstacle; contributions to the regular budget were, by most standards, rather small compared with other expenditures which could be afforded under national budgets.

4. The Organization would face new tasks in implementing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Secretary-General would play an important role in the activities of various United Nations bodies relating to that Strategy and in the implementation of the unified approach to development. Much preparatory review work would be necessary to enable the Secretary-General to propose remedial action, identify shortfalls in the goals of the Strategy and suggest positive measures, including new goals and policies. The resources presently available to the Secretary-General did not seem to be commensurate with needs in the light of those new tasks. In that context, his delegation agreed with the views expressed by the Secretary-General at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376) that there was a need to strengthen the higher echelons of the Secretariat in the direct interest of more effective management and in order to respond to the demands of the Second Development Decade. While awaiting the findings of the manpower utilization survey, his delegation was ready to pledge its support in principle to the strengthening of areas of the Secretariat dealing with economic and social affairs.

5. In that larger perspective, the proposed budgetary expenditure did not in itself seem alarming. Yet, the more the budget grew the greater the need for continuous control in the allocation of scarce resources and for rational savings. His delegation did not advocate an arbitrary ceiling on the budget or individual sections of it; the various recommendations should be considered strictly on their own merits. Control should be exercised over such basic activities as decision-making, co-ordination, priorities, programme budgeting and sound management.

6. Mr. Bertrand of the Joint Inspection Unit<sup>2</sup> had found that the current budgeting system emphasized expenditure

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1331st meeting, paras. 3-4.

<sup>2</sup> See A/7822 (mimeographed), of 3 December 1969.



on salaries, travel, staff costs and supplies but not the costs of programmes, so that it was difficult to establish clear links between specific programmes and the resources required to implement them. The steps recommended by the Secretary-General to overcome those drawbacks included measures related to the presentation of the budget on a programme basis, the adoption of medium-term planning and the establishment of a programming service within the Secretariat. The Secretary-General had commented on those proposals in his statement at the 1427th meeting. Those of the specialized agencies that had introduced PPBS procedures, however, specialized in areas in which a certain ordering of priorities could be agreed upon. United Nations activities, on the other hand, involved more policy considerations and any attempt to impose priorities might lead to controversy. In many quarters it was contended that the Secretary-General should serve as a focal point in the allocation of priorities. That contention had been challenged, however, on the ground that the decisions involved were the prerogative of Member States and fears had been expressed that a programming mechanism within the Secretariat would play too dominant a role. His delegation favoured a strengthening of the Secretary-General's position in such matters and hoped, like the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377), that it would be possible to create the "climate and conditions in which programme planning and programme budgeting could succeed".

7. His delegation also agreed with most, if not all, of the comments and recommendations in the statement made by the Netherlands representative at the 1434th meeting. He drew specific attention to his proposal concerning the establishment of a closer link among the main Committees concerned with the programming aspects of the Organization's work and the establishment of the budget. The establishment of a joint working group might be one way to meet the need for such co-ordination.

8. All delegations would wish the Organization to keep abreast of effective managerial methods leading to high productivity—in which high staff morale was not the least important factor. The Advisory Committee had made remarks critical of the Secretariat's budgetary management in paragraphs 56, 116, 122, 128 and 156 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2), although the possible savings involved represented only a fraction of the total budget. Some of those remarks, however, might have an indirect bearing on aspects of the work of the staff and the Organization's financial situation made it imperative that no possible measures should be overlooked in the search for savings.

9. Mr. MOJA (Albania) said that, as in past years, the budgetary expenditure of the Organization continued to grow and the budget estimates for 1972 in the colossal amount of \$207 million represented an increase of \$15 million by comparison with the financial year 1971. An increase of that magnitude was totally unjustified and constituted a burden for the small Member States. His delegation was critical, in particular, of the expenditure allocated for administrative purposes, which accounted for an important part of the budget estimates for 1972 because it reflected in particular the continued increase in the

bureaucratic staff of the Secretariat and in the expenditure allocated for international meetings. The budget also continued to provide for considerable expenditure related to the so-called special missions, special expenses and the United Nations bond issue, which constituted a violation of the principles of the Charter. His Government did not recognize such expenditure as legitimate and would vote against it. It was imperative that the budget for 1972 should be reduced. All expenses which not only increased the contributions of Member States but, more important, charged them with responsibilities contrary to the interests, independence and freedom of the peoples of the world must be excluded from that budget. He reaffirmed his delegation's position concerning technical assistance, which should be financed on the basis of voluntary contributions and, if a State so requested, in national currency.

10. The existing budgetary situation meant that the time had come to put an end to the Organization's policy of financing a number of operations which served only the interests of the two big Powers and were contrary to the interest of the majority of Member States, and to re-establish respect for the principles of the Charter. If his delegation's observations were not taken into consideration, it would be impossible for it to approve the 1972 budget estimates.

11. Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that a rational approach to the long-standing financial crisis of the United Nations could not fail to focus attention on a number of issues and their implications. In the first place, the finances of the Organization could not be compared to those of an ordinary business enterprise because the Organization had no control over the tasks imposed upon it by international developments; the lack of stability in its income was sometimes a reflection of the political reactions of Member States to its resolutions and decisions, and political and other considerations caused temporary administrative expenditure to become permanent. The real problem was that the Organization's success in controlling costs depended on its ability to control the duration of the temporary tasks, to evaluate the role of the new bodies set up to help discharge its responsibilities to prevent the proliferation of bodies which had a way of outliving their initial purposes and to establish clearly defined criteria for measuring, on a comprehensive basis the efficiency of its expenditure. All those problems were the responsibility of Member States.

12. Several factors accounted for the growth of the Organization's budget, not the least being the growth of its responsibilities in implementing the objectives of the Charter. The United Nations had rendered increasing service to the cause of international peace and prosperity and, to that extent, increased expenditure was warranted. The question was, however, whether the contributions of Member States had kept pace with those increasing duties. It was surely not beyond the Organization's capacity to devise criteria for correlating the growth of contributions with the growth of responsibilities. The question whether the Organization's achievements had been commensurate with the increasing expenditure was crucial because incomplete work meant increased expenditure. Some kind of control should be exercised over activities which did not yield the results anticipated. While there was inevitably a



political element involved in assessing the value of those activities, the extent to which they contributed to rising expenditure and over-expenditure should be made clear to all.

13. Like any other bureaucracy, the United Nations had a tendency to over-staff and proliferate administrative bodies. It was important to establish the cost efficiency per employee, with performance ratios and time-limits established and reviewed periodically in respect of each task undertaken by the United Nations. It was also vital to obtain data concerning the precise effect of the increased membership of the Organization and inflation, which was particularly marked in New York City, on the existing financial problem. It should further be determined, by cost control, to what extent the growth of the staff had been necessitated by actual need as opposed to bureaucratic expansion. He asked whether efficiency studies had been carried out by experts on the performance and cost of the staff and what kind of initial and in-service training figured in Secretariat policies for cost control. The suggested establishment of a staff college was a good beginning and recruitment policies should be reviewed periodically so as to attract the best qualified personnel.

14. He asked whether, in view of the high costs in New York City, there was any reason why the Secretariat should not have a policy for its new construction which would allow the transfer of some of its activities away from that unsafe environment. He also asked what reason underlay the selection of New York City as a prospective site for construction as opposed to other locations.

15. The value of certain appropriations was very much in question. The United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea were examples of undertakings that had outlived their relevance.

16. The greater universality of the United Nations would ensure that it was more representative of the world community and would promote its harmonious functioning. Many thorny problems could have been solved more swiftly, sooner and with less expenditure if the Organization had been more universally representative in the past.

17. Concluding, he expressed appreciation of the French Government's decision to make a voluntary contribution to ease the current financial difficulties.

18. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that the Organization's critical financial situation, which had been described by the Secretary-General and by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the 1427th meeting, was not new—on 1 September 1965 the General Assembly had adopted a consensus calling for voluntary contributions to deal with it, but its urgency and the general realization that the crisis had escalated was a new development. The various expedients adopted in the past could no longer conceal the Organization's inability to meet its bills. Her Government had responded generously to the Secretary-General's appeal in 1965 with a gift of \$9.5 million, following a substantial acquisition of bonds, and had continued to contribute in full to all other United Nations activities, regular and

voluntary. It would therefore remind the Committee that, if the United Nations was to survive as an effective international organization, it needed cash—not rhetoric. Her delegation had therefore been gratified by the willingness of other States, including major contributors, to participate in the discussions initiated by the President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hambro, in the search for a solution, and also the French announcement of a voluntary contribution. The successful outcome of the discussions would inevitably impose an additional burden on Member States, which they could not be expected to accept unless, at the same time, the United Nations was clearly doing everything possible to keep its expenditure under control.

19. General agreement on the importance of saving the Organization from bankruptcy had been accompanied by regret that the Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1972 provided for little growth in real terms. The fact that the budget level had a direct impact on the situation could not be ignored; the immediate problem was one of liquidity. As the level of the budget rose and items were included which would not be matched by contributions, the pressure on cash resources inevitably became more acute. Nor was it simply a matter of contributions failing to meet disbursements. Some delegations had explained their position with regard to the technical assistance element of the regular budget. It could well be asked whether the United Nations could continue to ignore the realities of the situation and contemplate not only the continuance but an increase in technical assistance which must further increase the Organization's insolvency. The deficit could not be regarded merely as a sombre background to the increases in the 1972 budget estimates and the supplementary estimates for 1971. There was agreement on the need for strict economy—yet, all too often, delegations were concerned only with economy in general; specific cutbacks had fewer friends. In her delegation's view, all items of expenditure must be scrutinized but, more important, the policies of the Organization must be closely related to available resources. Unless such an approach was adopted no one could be expected to take seriously the immediate financial crisis.

20. Programme budgeting offered an opportunity for a new approach involving highly sophisticated techniques with wide-ranging implications for the Organization as a whole. To be effective, it should provide a fully integrated system, encompassing the identification of objectives, the ordering of priorities, the relation of those priorities to the resources available and, above all, the evaluation of performance. Nevertheless, programme budgeting and forward planning would not provide a solution to budgetary control. The hard decision on priorities and the level of resources would remain to be taken by the Fifth and other Committees. Indeed, an efficient programme budgeting and planning system would make the decisions harder and add to the responsibilities of Member States. By identification and elucidation of the cost of specific initiatives, programme budgeting and planning should give all Member States a better opportunity to assess the implications of the direction they decided to take and the extent to which they were prepared to provide resources. It was to be hoped that that would result in a greater sense of self-discipline and greater cohesion when considering priorities. The various committees often seemed to take policy decisions without

due regard to their financial consequences and, as a result, the Fifth Committee was faced at a late stage with a mass of proposals which had to be related to likely resources. Such an approach was bound to lead to acrimony and frustration, for the Fifth Committee alone could not effectively determine priorities. The institution of a system of programme budgeting and planning should help all Member States to realize that the level of the budget was the concern not merely of the Fifth Committee but of the United Nations in all its committees. Her delegation feared that disregard of that essential truth would drive the Organization over the edge before a system relating priorities to available resources gained general acceptance. It was vital, therefore, that all members of the Committee should not only exercise restraint in respect of the budget estimates for 1972 but should influence their colleagues in other Committees to take account of the practical possibilities as well as the desirability of their policies.

21. With regard to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit before the Committee, she thought that while few delegations would agree with everything that the Inspectors had said, all delegations would support many of their recommendations. Her delegation was convinced that the Inspectors were right in taking the position that unless action was taken during the current year to check the avalanche of paper and the profusion of meetings, there could be no real prospect that United Nations operations would continue to be even moderately efficient. Yet, there had already been indications that some Committees were disregarding the Joint Inspection Unit recommendations and continued to produce documents duplicating existing papers.

22. It was right that the Committee should seek to improve the productivity of the staff and to co-operate in the rationalization of procedures. The demands of Member States, however, largely determined the operations of the Secretariat and her delegation shared the view of a number of delegations that if the Secretariat was allowed to get on with its work without constant calls for examination, review, study or reappraisal, the United Nations and all Member States would benefit.

23. Her delegation's general approach to the budget would be that the Organization's coat must be cut according to its cloth. The United Nations had drawn paper patterns too large for the material which Member States had been prepared to provide for too long.

24. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that his country had already presented its more general views on budgetary questions at the two preceding sessions of the General Assembly. He would therefore concentrate on the financial crisis. He emphasized the imprudence of a "business as usual" approach in an organization on the verge of bankruptcy, an approach that had characterized the Fifth Committee's attitude to the financial problem and, even more, that of the other main Committees, despite increasingly grave warnings from the Secretary-General in recent years.

25. The underlying cause of the crisis was political, but had resulted in cash problems of an administrative nature. Thus the Organization was trapped in a vicious circle. It was comforting that at last a serious effort was being made,

under the guidance of Mr. Hambro, to deal with the crisis. And it was encouraging that those chiefly responsible for perpetuating an embarrassing situation had adopted a constructive approach to the deficit problem. The recent announcement by the French Government of a substantial voluntary contribution was a happy omen, and it was to be hoped that that act of faith would be followed by a further response, and would be emulated by other States that had been motivated to incur an even larger debt to the Organization. Substantial contributions by major Powers would have a "bandwagon" effect that would encourage co-operation by smaller countries and Mr. Hambro's proposals would be more likely to bear fruit. New Zealand had publicly indicated its willingness to co-operate, during the general discussion in the General Assembly at the 1955th plenary meeting, when its representative had said that his country would consider reduction in the face value of its United Nations bonds and waiving of its credits under the peace-keeping accounts, as part of a negotiated package.

26. The argument had been advanced that only when spiralling budget costs had been arrested would there be the right climate for voluntary contributions. That was putting the cart before the horse, since the positions of principle that had led to the deficit had preceded the rising budget costs that were causing concern. It must also be remembered that some element in the expansion of the budget was due to inflation. Nevertheless, concern at the alarming budget expansion was real and justified, and was not felt by the great Powers alone. Controlled budget growth had now become essential. Nor was it only a matter of efficient management in the Secretariat itself, necessary as that was. The Secretariat had to administer the activities and programmes imposed upon it by Member States, and consequently it was vital for the latter to show restraint and adhere to the financial disciplines that rules 154 and 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly had had all too little effect in enforcing. There must be a balance between substance and cost within the limits of total resources. As things stood, substantive organs could reach final recommendations involving expenditure without knowing its relation to total resources and to the Organization's priorities, an anomalous situation with both technical and political overtones. At the current session, no proposals should be pushed that would have substantial financial implications, adversely affect the deficit and aggravate the cash problem. In the Second Committee, for example, New Zealand and some other delegations had pointed out that the proposal about rearrangements in the regular programme of technical assistance, however meritorious, must be regarded as ill-timed at the present juncture.

27. In other areas, restraint in pursuing factional interests could help to improve the financial situation and establish the right atmosphere for joint action on the basic problem. To that extent, the budget expansion and the long-term deficit were related. New Zealand would like the Fifth Committee to look carefully at the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendation on reducing documentation with a view to immediate savings. Consequently, his delegation's attitude to section 11 of the estimates was without prejudice to the potential savings under that section indicated in the two Joint Inspection Unit reports on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1) and recurrent publications (see A/8362).

28. Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) said that, like other speakers, he was deeply disturbed at the Secretary-General's description of the financial crisis. It was to be hoped that Mr. Hambro's efforts to find a solution would succeed, and that Member States would realize that it was in their common interest to safeguard the continuing operation of the Organization.

29. Referring to paragraph 41 of the Secretary-General's foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), he said that the importance of the Administrative Management Service's work was sufficient to justify a separate report to the General Assembly.

30. Turning to the question of budget expansion, he said that Romania had always supported a rational development of the Organization's work, but an analysis of the estimates showed that administrative costs accounted for too large a share. Admittedly inflation had played a part, but a stricter control over the estimates put forward by departments would have permitted some limitation of the budget expansion, on the basis of efficient organization and rational use of resources. Romania would accordingly accept the reduction of some \$2.5 million proposed by the Advisory Committee. Further savings could be made by deleting from the budget the costs of such illegal activities as those relating to the United Nations Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, under section 17, chapter III, and the Memorial Cemetery in Korea under section 12, chapter I. Their inclusion was both a burden on the budget and a source of continuing friction.

31. Mr. REDDY (India) said his country had long pressed for a reappraisal of the Organization's budgetary policy. Now the United Nations was facing a grave financial crisis. Some believed that the answer lay in budgetary cuts, but they could only be arbitrary, and might destroy the fabric of some of the Organization's activities. The other solution was to adopt a statesman-like approach and join forces to safeguard the future of the world's main hope for peace and international co-operation. Member States must now look beyond the fossilized attitudes of the dead past, since the survival of the Organization was in the interest of all.

32. In addition to the various elements that Mr. Hambro thought might make up a package solution (see A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8), the Indian delegation wished to put forward some further suggestions, mainly concerning the building up of the Working Capital Fund. That might be done by the following means: allocating to the Fund income from revenue-producing activities, instead of using it to reduce the gross level of the budget; allocating unspent amounts from the annual appropriations, instead of using them to reduce Member States' assessments in following years; allocating to the Fund interest accruing through prompt payment by January 31 of Member States' contributions. States which failed to pay by then could have their total contribution for the year increased by an amount based on the interest at prevailing New York rates, accrued for the period between that date and the date of the final payment, and that amount might also be credited to the Working Capital Fund. Lastly, interest should be levied on outstanding arrears and added to them. Those additional amounts would be included in the calculation of the ceiling

which, if attained, would cause Member States to forfeit the right to vote.

33. In dealing with the financial crisis, positions of principle, which had been fully recognized in the records, could be set aside. But in future budgets the elements giving rise to stands of principle must be removed. At all costs the Organization's continued existence must be ensured.

34. He could not agree that there was a link between the financial crisis and the need for stable growth of the Organization's activities. Such a view conflicted with the terms of General Assembly resolution 2748 (XXV) on the harmonization and growth of programmes and budgets of the United Nations system. Since most of the increase in the estimates over the 1971 appropriation was accounted for by inflation, it was hard to understand the outcry about rising budget levels. The Organization was being penalized as the consequence of the policies of some Member States, while the majority of Member States were being accused of irresponsibility.

35. With respect to programme budgeting, he looked forward to receiving the proposed mock-up, but he regretted that the document was being issued so late, since it would need careful study in view of the important decision involved. Some specialized agencies had been pleased with their own experience of programme budgeting, but that technique might not be applicable to all United Nations activities. As the changeover might involve some confusion, the presentation of the budget in two forms might be useful during the interim period.

36. At the previous session, extraordinary importance had been attached to the question of increasing the accommodation at Headquarters by some delegations. Now the scheme had collapsed, and apparently there were no alternative proposals, despite the clear provisions of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV). Meanwhile expenditure on rented accommodation would rise. Every effort should be made to find alternative solutions. If the original project did go through, who would meet the extra cost caused by the delay? In his view, there was only one answer to that question.

37. He said that the two main points to consider in connexion with the appraisal of the Office of Public Information would be avoidance of the existing dispersal of activities and duplication, and the need for greater emphasis on the promotional aspect.

38. He shared the concern some speakers had expressed concerning the need to make full use of the International Computing Centre at Geneva, but pointed out that some agencies would be unable to use it because they had their own very specialized requirements.

39. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ (Cuba) said he wished to preface his remarks by expressing Cuba's satisfaction at the action taken by the General Assembly the day before to restore its lawful rights to the People's Republic of China in the United Nations.

40. Cuba considered that the financial crisis facing the United Nations was due to the proliferation of purely

administrative activities, together with continual increases in staff, justified on the grounds that new activities must necessarily imply new posts. As a result 75 per cent of the budget was now consumed by staff costs.

41. It appeared that the total budget for 1972 would amount to some \$216 million, 12 per cent more than for 1971. The increase for 1971 and 1972, together, was about \$48 million; if the budget continued to expand at that rate, it would double within seven or eight years, and so would the contributions of Member States. Obviously, a policy of strict economy was needed, but the Organization had not even embarked on such a policy; there must be a radical change in the Secretariat's approach to financial issues.

42. The developing countries were alarmed by their steadily increasing financial obligations to the United Nations which represented a heavy burden for them, whereas the programmes adopted were not always directed to the better use of resources to promote development, and were far from fulfilling their aspirations. When the budget expanded, the developing countries felt the consequences most because of their limited resources. Nor was there any corresponding rise in the aid they received. The Organization was not pursuing a sound financial policy, since the ever-increasing expenditure estimates were in conflict with the views of most Member States. It was to be hoped that the improved methods contemplated by the Secretary-General would lead to a more rational approach and put a stop to the steady deterioration of the Organization's finances. Cuba considered that the submission of supplementary estimates every year was due to lack of foresight and technical shortcomings in budgetary planning, and reflected substantial inaccuracies in the regular estimates submitted.

43. He could not agree that the sum of \$2 million originally appropriated for new construction should be set off against the supplementary estimates for 1971. If it appeared the project would fall through (see A/C.6/1381), the Committee must so inform the General Assembly so that it could take a further decision.

44. Turning to staff questions, he said that the constant increase in new posts was attributable to bad recruitment policy according to which new functions called for new posts even when new functions could be performed by existing staff. Furthermore, a more equitable geographical distribution of posts would enable more developing and socialist countries to take part in the Secretariat's work. His delegation shared the view of those who contended that Secretariat vacancies, particularly those for senior posts, should be filled by candidates from under-represented countries. The question of staff salaries should be settled once and for all by the adoption of measures which would stabilize the budgets of staff members and their families.

45. The question arose as to how far Member States were responsible for defraying the high cost of living in New York just because, despite the opposition of several delegations, the United Nations Headquarters happened to be located in the United States. Again, the most developed country in the capitalist world refused to sign the Convention on privileges and immunities; it was inadmissible that that country should refuse to exempt those of its citizens

who were staff members of the Organization from payment of taxes, especially since great economic benefits accrued to the United States Government and the City of New York from the presence of United Nations Headquarters in New York.

46. Cuba objected on principle to the inclusion in the estimates of expenses for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, the United Nations bond issue and the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and would vote against the relevant budget chapters and sections.

47. In so far as the Headquarters extension project was concerned, his delegation was opposed to a greater concentration of the Organization's activities in the United States. To judge by the complaints of several delegations, New York was no longer a suitable location for the Headquarters of the United Nations. The prevailing atmosphere of discrimination and terrorism, typified by the recent attack on the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations, made it impossible for delegations to pursue their activities in the peace and security essential to diplomacy.

48. Mr. YOGASUNDRAM (Ceylon) said that the Organization's financial situation had deteriorated to the point where not even the most optimistic could deny the existence of a grave crisis which, if not solved without delay would ultimately destroy the United Nations. As it was, the precarious state of its finances hampered various of the Organization's activities and prevented it from discharging its responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security. It would be strange if mankind, although ready to invest its hopes in the Organization, was nevertheless reluctant to provide the financial investment so necessary to the realization of those hopes. The success of the Second United Nations Development Decade, for example, depended on the Organization's financial and political stability. It was essential, therefore, that, as a matter of urgency, the Organization should be placed on a sound financial footing.

49. The financial crisis was directly attributable to the refusal of certain Member States to bear their share of the cost of operations to which they objected on principle. Ceylon associated itself with the repeated appeals made to those States to join in endeavours to restore the solvency of the Organization. They had made their point and if they were now to co-operate in saving the United Nations, they would not be regarded as in any way compromising their principles. If the welcome example set by the French delegation was followed by others, the financial crisis would soon be part of history. Appreciation was due to Mr. Hambro, who was making strenuous efforts to resolve the crisis. Ceylon would examine all his suggestions very carefully, including that for the establishment of a United Nations refinancing account, and wished him every success in his endeavours.

50. He deplored the tendency of some Member States to link the present financial crisis and deficit to suggestions that appropriations for new programmes should be curtailed. Such thinking was based on the fallacy that a reduction in future appropriations would result in a

corresponding reduction in past deficits. Unfortunately, the deficit could not be reduced by making cuts in the regular budget, and to link the two was unsound economically. The fact that it opposed curtailment of programmes did not mean that Ceylon automatically advocated the indiscriminate adoption of every suggestion made in the Organization. Despite differences of opinion concerning the allocation of priorities, some order of priorities must be established. Perhaps for the time being, and in a spirit of democracy, priority should be attached to projects which the greatest number of Member States felt would do the most good. In view of the trend of the debates in the Third Committee during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, for example, it would seem that the proposal to create a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should be numbered among low priority projects which, if cuts in appropriations had to be made, should be the first to be scrapped.

51. The 1972 estimates showed an increase of 10 to 12 per cent over 1971 appropriations. While his delegation was in favour of keeping appropriations down through budgetary discipline, the elimination of waste and proper co-ordination and planning, it could not agree that an artificial ceiling should be placed on the budget; such a procedure would be totally unrealistic and would defeat the stated aims of the Organization. The greater part of the 1972 increase was attributable to factors beyond the Organization's control, such as inflation and currency fluctuations. The net figure to be appropriated for new activities was alarmingly low for the commencement of the Second Development Decade. If the political will which had enabled the General Assembly to adopt the International Development Strategy was to retain its vigour, the Fifth Committee should be prepared to face the fact that there would be a steady growth in the budget. It was impossible for the dynamism of the Organization not to be reflected in its budget and, conversely, a lack of appreciable growth due to new programmes would surely mean that the United Nations was ailing and needed a quick transfusion of new ideas and attitudes.

52. In conclusion, he said that it was a matter for regret that, owing to the unavailability of documents, the Committee was behind schedule in its work. Efforts must be made to avoid a repetition of that situation because the additional meetings that would be needed would entail extra and wasteful expenditure.

53. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Venezuela) said that the Advisory Committee's comments, in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, on its co-operation with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had been a source of satisfaction to his delegation. Such co-operation would help to eliminate the deficiencies of the United Nations system and result in improving its financial administration. The Advisory Committee had also drawn attention to the close relationship between programme-review and budget-review. Programmes which, particularly in the economic, social and human rights fields, were constantly expanding must be brought into line with the relatively limited resources Member States were able to allocate for their implementation.

54. In so far as publications and documentation were concerned, Venezuela endorsed the Advisory Committee's comment that the concerted efforts of the Secretary-General and Member States could achieve a substantial reduction in the volume of documentation without affecting the efficiency of the Organization.

55. In conclusion, he said that his delegation wished Mr. Hambro and the Secretary-General every success in their endeavours to solve the financial difficulties of the United Nations. Member States were grateful to Mr. Hambro for his initiative and warmly welcomed the French Government's announced voluntary contribution. All States must co-operate in Mr. Hambro's negotiations if the Secretary-General was to have the means to carry out the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

56. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland) said that the principal reason for the Organization's critical financial situation was the failure to find a means of financing peace-keeping operations. The primary responsibility for putting the financial system right lay with the permanent members of the Security Council, for it was with them that power resided. Currently, the main United Nations peace-keeping work was in Cyprus. Although the force there had been set up by the Security Council, and although the mandate had been unanimously extended by the Council every three or six months over the past seven years, the Council had decided to allow costs to be met by voluntary contributions. So far as Ireland was concerned, the result of that decision was that it was owed over \$1 million for extra costs. From the time the peace-keeping operations had been organized Ireland had given them every support. It was, however, becoming increasingly concerned with the difficulties experienced in funding them, particularly since similar operations would probably have to be organized in the future.

57. Increases in the Organization's budget were inevitable. His delegation was anxious that economies should be practised where possible, but it realized that certain increases were beyond the Organization's control. It was confident that, with the formidable battery of weapons available to supervise each step of the United Nations budgetary system—the Advisory Committee, the Administrative Management Service, the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board of Auditors and the Fifth Committee—any tendency for the Organization to form deadwood was kept in check.

58. In conclusion, he wished Mr. Hambro every success in his endeavours to reduce the Organization's deficit. The French Government was to be congratulated on its unconditional voluntary contribution. His delegation realized that some Member States had taken a very strong stand on principle on certain United Nations activities and had refused to finance them. It wished to suggest, however, that those countries had made their point and should now strive to restore the Organization to solvency.

59. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that in their statements at the 1427th meeting to the Committee, the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had cast serious doubts on the ability of the Organization to continue to work effectively. The Organization's insolvency was attributable to shortfalls in regular budgetary receipts

and to the fact that the Working Capital Fund had been exhausted. In addition, debts for past and present peace-keeping operations remained unpaid. It would be illusory to expect that a debt of the magnitude referred to by the Secretary-General in his statement could be reduced merely by reducing expenditures in the regular budget. It was difficult to see, therefore, how the United Nations would be able to meet the estimates for 1972. In the circumstances, his delegation warmly welcomed Mr. Hambro's efforts to solve the Organization's financial difficulties and was grateful to the French Government for its voluntary contribution. It seemed necessary to mention that another major Power had made a sizeable contribution as long ago as 1965, and the delegations of Canada and New Zealand were to be congratulated on the positive attitude they had adopted to the question. It was significant, too, that some developing countries had made voluntary contributions. His delegation wished Mr. Hambro every success in his endeavours.

60. It seemed necessary to point out that the success of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade depended on the concerted and determined endeavours of Member States and the Secretariat. His delegation did not question the contention that various departments of the Secretariat were over-staffed, and it realized that two thirds of the Organization's budget was devoted to staff salaries. Nevertheless, there was no gainsaying that Member States derived profit from the United Nations and should therefore be appreciative of the contributions the Secretariat had made to the cause of development. It was with great concern, therefore, that his delegation had read paragraph 121 of the introduction (A/8401/Add.1 and Corr.1) to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization and it trusted that the staff's salary requirements would be treated as a matter of utmost priority.

61. Referring to the possible creation in 1972 of new posts involving expenditure of approximately \$1.9 million, he said that the Fifth Committee had no control over the action of other Main Committees. However, it did seem

necessary to ensure that any increase in staff should be in proportion to the increased effectiveness of the United Nations in pursuing its various goals. It was therefore imperative for the Main Committees to establish and maintain close links with the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination so that new posts did not duplicate functions already being performed elsewhere in the system. It would be interesting to know whether it was really necessary to recruit staff from outside to fill the new posts. Surely the so-called "over-staffed" Secretariat should be able to fill some of them at least from existing staff resources. In the opinion of his delegation, the Secretariat should not hesitate, when necessary, to inform Committees that certain projected posts were unnecessary. His delegation wondered whether an objective study should not be made in advance, possibly by the Joint Inspection Unit of the practical necessity for creating new posts.

62. Steps must be taken to control the documentation explosion. The Advisory Committee was of the opinion that a substantial reduction in the volume of documentation could be achieved without affecting the efficiency of the Organization. His delegation hoped, therefore, that all bodies would pay due regard to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in documents A/8319 and Corr.1 and A/8362.

63. It would be interesting to know the reasons for the reluctance of organizations to commit themselves to full participation in the International Computing Centre at Geneva. The fact that, according to the Advisory Committee, the organizations in general, including those in Geneva, had continued to use and in some cases expand their own electronic data processing installations would result in a waste of funds and under-utilization of the Centre. His delegation therefore joined the Advisory Committee in appealing to those organizations which had not yet done so to transfer their data processing activities to the Centre.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, E/5038)

*General discussion (continued)*

1. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) recalled that his delegation had consistently maintained that, if the United Nations was to be effective, its staff must possess the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Staff efficiency depended basically on morale, which in turn depended on working conditions and remuneration. At the previous session, Colombia had actively participated in the discussion on the salary increase for the Professional and higher categories, which had been approved by an overwhelming majority despite the additional expenditure it had entailed. His delegation considered that the expenditure was necessary both to maintain the efficiency of the United Nations and to conserve the benefits of the sums which the Organization had been investing in staff training over the past 25 years, and which now amounted to more than \$2,800 million. By comparison with such a sum, the cost of the salary increase, which had been some \$2.5 million and represented only a small fraction of the total budget, was more or less negligible. Moreover, as the Hungarian representative had pointed out at the previous session, it was not the quantity of the contribution which counted but the quality of the services which Member States received.

2. Turning to the question of the United Nations financial crisis, he drew attention to the alarming facts cited by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his report (A/8401/Add.1 and Corr.1) on the work of the Organization: that the cumulative shortfall continued to grow, that the Working Capital Fund was exhausted, as were the special accounts, that the Organization had incurred debts to finance peace-keeping operations, and that it had even been reduced to borrowing to meet its monthly payrolls. In short, the present situation was tragic and the future likely to be catastrophic. His delegation was well aware that the crisis was due mainly to objections of principle by some Member States to particular items of expenditure; it

respected those objections but could not share them. His delegation urged the delegations of those States to reconsider their positions in view of the risk of imminent collapse of the United Nations. It was time to face the melancholy fact that the Organization was on the verge of bankruptcy, and to take the steps that any business or housewife would take when faced with financial difficulties, namely to refrain for the time being from expenditure which was not really urgent and to concentrate on the most pressing needs.

3. The gravity and urgency of the situation demanded that the Fifth Committee should give priority to considering the steps to be taken to remedy it. The Secretary-General had expressed the hope that at least some steps could be taken early in the current session and had assured Member States of the support of himself and of the Secretariat; it was time for the Fifth Committee to adopt the necessary measures if bankruptcy was to be avoided. He felt sure that no member of the Committee would wish to be answerable to such a serious charge.

4. In 1970, his delegation had said that as of 1972 undue increases in the budget could be avoided if Member States which decided on the introduction of new activities, services and the like would satisfy themselves, before reaching a decision, that the Organization possessed the necessary resources. If all bodies acted in that way, the Fifth Committee would not face such a volume of documentation every year on the financial implications of those decisions, and money would be saved.

5. His delegation suggested that, pending the restoration of the United Nations to solvency, it should defer any expenditure which was not essential for its functioning, for instance on items such as new construction, extensions, computer installations, recruitment of new staff and organization of special conferences, until it possessed the necessary funds to finance it. His delegation counted on the co-operation of every member of the Committee in that respect.

6. The Committee played a very important role in the complex working of the United Nations machinery. The previous speakers had all emphasized the urgent need for drastic steps to reduce expenditure and solve the Organization's crisis. Several had said that overriding priority should be given to programmes of essential benefit to developing countries. His delegation shared that view.

7. The increase in the budget was felt especially keenly by those countries whose contributions were largest. Any recommendations they might make therefore carried considerable weight. He suggested that the two countries which paid the highest contributions, namely the United States



and the Soviet Union, should jointly submit a draft resolution, which might include the ideas he had just advanced, together with those of other delegations, on the subject of the practical steps to be taken to solve the Organization's financial difficulties. His delegation would be prepared to support such a resolution.

8. If some order of priority was established for essential United Nations activities, his delegation would for its part support, and invite the entire Committee to support, any programme which would help overcome the major obstacles faced by developing countries in their search for peace and co-operation. His Government had noted with great satisfaction that UNDP, by introducing country programming, had created a new and more rational system for assisting developing countries with technical and pre-investment programmes. Moreover, Colombia had been one of the first countries to agree to the system. It hoped that the Second United Nations Development Decade would be more effective than the first and, in particular, that it would help to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor countries and between different sections of the population in individual countries.

9. In part three, chapter VI, of his report on the work of the Organization (A/8401 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General gave detailed information on United Nations programmes for development and technical co-operation. The figures which the Secretary-General quoted gave some idea of the breadth of those programmes and of their immeasurable benefits to peoples throughout the world.

10. The budget for the administrative and programme support services of UNDP for 1971 amounted to \$29.5 million. That seemed a small sum in view of the extent of the programmes and their importance, economically and socially, to developing countries. Far larger estimates had been included in some sections of the 1972 budget, in particular in section 3, to meet expenditure which his delegation did not consider urgently necessary. The 1971 appropriations for staff for the administration of UNDP programmes allowed for 377 international posts at the Professional and higher levels and 2,222 General Service staff. Of the latter, however, 2,084 were locally recruited, which helped to lessen the unemployment problems of recipient countries. As proof of the importance it attached to United Nations programmes for technical co-operation, the Colombian Government, despite its limited resources, had increased, in 1970, its voluntary contribution to UNDP from \$240,000 to \$400,000 and since 1970 had made at least \$42 million available to the United Nations technical co-operation system as a whole in the form of counterpart support for UNDP. Furthermore, out of recognition for the services which Colombia received from the United Nations system, his Government was contemplating a further increase in its voluntary contribution to UNDP, as far as the country's economic situation would permit.

11. His delegation appealed to the rich countries of the world which contributed to United Nations programmes for development and technical co-operation to increase their voluntary contributions to those programmes, since, in Colombia's view, peace and prosperity were indissociable in the world of today. The Fifth Committee would thus be assisting the maintenance of peace and security in the

world by approving the estimates for the development and technical assistance programmes.

12. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines), referring to the statements by the Secretary-General at the 1427th (A/C.5/1376) and 1436th meetings and by Mr. Hambro, President of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, at the 1436th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP/8), said that the United Nations faced two main problems: the liquidation of its financial obligations and the re-ordering of its administrative and budgetary organization and procedures so as to prevent deficits in the future or keep them within manageable proportions.

13. He had complete confidence in Mr. Hambro as far as the solution to the first problem was concerned and the provision of voluntary contributions could certainly help towards solving it. In that respect, the unconditional contribution of \$4 million announced by the French Government (see A/C.5/1384) was very encouraging and he hoped that the developed countries and the most developed among the developing countries would offer additional voluntary contributions.

14. With regard to the second problem, drastic economy measures were needed, but those measures must not jeopardize the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its goals and objectives, particularly in the field of economic and social development. In that connexion, support should be given to the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade; it should be expanded into new economic and social fields, and ways and means should be explored for the effective implementation of long-standing projects whose importance had already been demonstrated. Support must also be given to the establishment of machinery to co-ordinate the programmes of the various United Nations bodies and to the creation of appropriate machinery to review and appraise the progress of the International Development Strategy. However, his delegation opposed the proliferation of projects and bodies, including those charged with co-ordination, as being a source of additional expenditure and of confusion and inefficiency.

15. With regard to the payment of contributions by Member States, he felt there was no valid reason, other than exceptional circumstances, why States should not pay their assessments and do so in time; it was regrettable that some \$35 million of the \$65 million unpaid regular assessments was unrecoverable.

16. In addition, the administrative organization and procedures of the Secretariat should be looked into, especially in view of the continuing increase in personnel. It would appear that the problem could be solved if there was a better distribution of personnel and if Member States refrained from exerting pressure on the Secretariat to accept nationals who lacked the necessary abilities. The measures taken in that field would mean considerable savings in salaries and allowances and would reduce the cost of administrative work, office supplies and equipment and office space.

17. His delegation was also concerned over the proliferation of conferences and meetings and considered that



extensive preparatory studies would enable their number to be reduced. The calendar of conferences should be strictly adhered to and, as recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit, the cost of conferences should never exceed the corresponding appropriations. Moreover, the Committee on Conferences should be re-established.

18. It was generally agreed that the volume of documentation and publications must be reduced, and his delegation hoped that the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on that point would be implemented immediately. At the previous session, his delegation had made suggestions for shortening reports and reducing the volume of documentation supplied to delegations; it hoped that bold measures would make it possible to set a ceiling on documentation.

19. It was regrettable that the facilities of the International Computing Centre at Geneva were not used by a greater number of bodies; better use of the Centre would have a beneficial effect on the capacity of the United Nations system, and it was to be hoped that the various agencies concerned would reconsider their position on the matter.

20. His delegation believed that the development of an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting was a step in the right direction. Yet while medium-term planning, in his view, was very important for the realization of planned objectives, only political decisions would make it possible to transform the programmes into viable projects.

21. He realized that the initial budget for 1972 estimates of \$208 million submitted by the Secretary-General would be subject to further revision in various respects. In addition, his delegation would take into account the statements made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the changes which might result from the fluid monetary situation, and would examine the estimates in the light of that information.

22. In conclusion, with regard to the Organization's informational activities, he stressed the vital need to extend them so that they reached the masses throughout the world. He hoped in particular that the activities of the Organization in the economic and social fields and on human rights would be better publicized, and that the Office of Public Information would receive adequate financial support from all Governments to that end.

23. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that he had listened with the greatest interest to the Colombian representative and fully subscribed to his statement.

24. Like all other members, he was concerned over the financial situation and hoped that Mr. Hambro's efforts would be successful; in that connexion, he congratulated the French Government on its generous gesture and hoped that its example would be followed.

25. With reference to the estimates for 1972, he was concerned over the increase in personnel; better utilization of personnel and modernization and rejuvenation of the

Secretariat might enable it to carry out its task efficiently. Noting that more than 100 new posts had been requested for 1972, he said that staff questions, particularly working conditions and staff morale, should be studied in depth so that the necessary recommendations could be made. As to geographical distribution, many promises were made each year but the figures showed that there had been no noticeable improvement in that respect; effective steps should be taken in the matter to meet the wishes of the majority of the Committee.

26. He endorsed the comments made by the Philippines representative concerning the Office of Public Information, and said that, in considering matters related to that Office, account must be taken of the pertinent reports before the Committee, in particular the report of the Joint Inspection Unit; however, he would like to receive one or two long outstanding explanations on the subject.

27. His delegation would transmit a document to the Secretariat concerning the emoluments of the Secretary-General and the pension he should receive; the document would be submitted to the Committee as a draft resolution. Although the Committee had concerned itself with the general increase in salaries and wages, there had been no increase in the emoluments of the Secretary-General. The draft resolution already had the support of the majority of the members of the Committee; particularly the major Powers. He would like to know the financial implications of his proposal and wondered whether the representative of Brazil could supply any details on the subject. He read out the draft resolution<sup>1</sup> and invited members of the Committee to co-sponsor it.

28. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that the United States delegation had prepared a substantive statement on the 1972 budget estimates. Unfortunately, as a result of the vote the previous evening, the statement was obsolete. In recognition of the Committee's desire to approach matters objectively and reflectively, he reserved the right to speak further, at a later time, after an accurate assessment of United States congressional thinking had been made.

29. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that his delegation did not share the concern of those delegations which considered a budget growth rate of approximately 10 per cent to be extravagant; in fact, a budget of \$215 million was modest for a world organization.

30. His delegation was aware of the financial difficulties which beset the Organization, but felt that all Member States were responsible for finding a solution. In his statement at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376), the Secretary-General had said that it was conceivable that a policy of budgetary constraint for 1972 could make it easier for many Governments to lend the kind of voluntary financial support that was so sorely needed. But that possibility should not be made a pretext for excessive reductions in the estimates for 1972. His delegation did not favour the fixing of a mandatory ceiling on expenditure; it felt, however, that 1971 was a year in which the General Assembly should exercise some self-discipline and show a

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently issued as A/C.5/L.1062.

degree of voluntary restraint, bearing in mind that, as the Secretary-General had said, it might be necessary in all cases to compensate, if possible, for the additional needs involved, so as not to exceed the general target of a 10 per cent increase in the estimates. His delegation favoured such a budget policy and all measures designed to implement it.

31. As to the decisions to be taken in the near future to solve the financial problem, his delegation had noted with interest the suggestions made by some delegations in the general discussion that all categories of Member States should participate in the efforts to solve the problem; his delegation fully agreed with what the Nigerian representative had said on that point (1435th meeting). Consideration might be given to the possibility of establishing a fairly small working group in which all categories of Member States would be represented and which would have the task of studying all the facts and proposals, of considering what concrete action could be taken and possibly of formulating a draft resolution. In that connexion, his delegation had read with particular interest the suggestions of the Indian representative (1439th meeting) for a solution to the financial crisis, and felt that any working group should take them into account. Unless urgent action was taken during the current session, it might become necessary to convene an extraordinary or emergency session in 1972.

32. His delegation had decided to restrict its remarks at the current session to a few general observations on the Organization's financial situation, but one problem seemed of such importance that he wished at least to mention it, namely the harmonization of planning and budgeting. The difficulties of the United Nations in that respect arose from the fact that, whereas on the one hand, it had a large and heterogeneous body of representatives with no political discipline other than what they imposed on themselves, on the other it had executive power through which it could limit its budget. His delegation hoped that the introduction of an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting would help to make it clear to the various bodies of the United Nations that whatever action they decided upon had to be considered in the light of the Organization's objectives. It was to be hoped that paragraphs 22 to 29 of the Secretary-General's foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406) would be fully debated and that measures would be adopted during the current session of the General Assembly.

33. His delegation could not accept the idea that the Headquarters building project should be abandoned without holding a proper debate to determine what action should be taken; he awaited a statement on the subject by the representative of the Secretary-General.

34. Mr. MAROOFI (Afghanistan) said that the Organization's financial crisis had reached a more critical stage than ever in 1971. Ways and means should urgently be devised to enable the United Nations to discharge its functions effectively, maintain international peace and security and further economic and social development throughout the world. His delegation was particularly concerned over the possibility that financial difficulties might adversely affect the programmes launched for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It therefore supported the present efforts by Mr. Hambro and the Secretary-General to elimi-

nate the deficit and endorsed the view that the rich nations should make voluntary contributions to help solve the financial crisis. His delegation would support any measure which would enable the United Nations and its agencies to continue their activities more effectively and to embark on others that would benefit the world community, and in particular the developing countries.

35. His delegation was naturally concerned at the constant increase in the Organization's expenditure. It had been suggested that it should be met by raising the contributions of Member States. Such a measure would place too great a burden on the developing countries and might nullify the benefits they were deriving from current development projects. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to reduce the initial budget estimates by \$2,403,200 on condition that the reduction would in no way affect assistance programmes for the developing countries, especially those designed to promote human rights and economic, social and cultural development.

36. The estimates for the international protection of refugees carried a special significance for his delegation. In addition, Afghanistan's position on chapter I (United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea) of section 12, and chapter III (United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea) of section 17 remained unchanged. With regard to section 10, an effort should be made to keep the general expenses as low as possible. In view of the Organization's financial situation, the general expenses listed under the items to which he had just referred only aggravated the difficulties. Priorities had to be determined in order to ensure the best possible use of the Organization's limited resources.

37. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that the International Computing Centre at Geneva was in full operation, but regretted that only the United Nations and two specialized agencies made use of it. It hoped that other agencies would soon follow suit and supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation (see A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 45) for an over-all review of their policies concerning the Centre.

38. His delegation believed that strict discipline should be shown in budgeting, planning and co-ordination, not only in seeking solutions to the present financial crisis but also in planning for the future finances of the United Nations.

39. Little progress had been made towards ensuring a more equitable geographical representation in the Secretariat. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would make an effort to remedy that state of affairs, in particular by considering the possibility of offering fixed-term appointments to candidates from under-represented countries, especially at the middle and higher levels.

40. He wished to draw attention to his delegation's position with regard to the dissemination of information: it believed that the practice of the Office of Public Information in disseminating information on United Nations activities mainly in the European languages amounted to discrimination against peoples who did not understand those languages, especially in the developing countries of

Asia and Africa. Measures should be taken in that respect. Furthermore, special attention should be paid to countries that did not possess the necessary communications facilities for disseminating information on United Nations activities. His delegation hoped that the Office of Public Information would attempt to improve the situation.

41. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) thanked Mr. Hambro for his efforts to solve the Organization's financial crisis and noted that some progress had been made in that direction, as witnessed by the voluntary contribution of \$3.9 million announced by the representative of France (see A/C.5/1384). In spite of its shortcomings, the United Nations was the best way of maintaining international peace and security—and also the least expensive, since \$215 million was an insignificant amount compared with the colossal expenditure on means of destruction. It was gratifying to note that all Member States were aware of the gravity of the Organization's current financial crisis and seemed ready to do everything in their power to solve it. Pakistan, in spite of its limited resources, had always paid its contribution to the United Nations budget promptly and regularly and would continue to fulfil its financial obligations.

42. In view of the Organization's financial situation, his delegation had not pressed its case for a downward adjustment of its assessment, although it was convinced that the Committee on Contributions could have suggested some procedure for dealing positively with the requests made by Pakistan and Romania.<sup>2</sup> The solution to the present financial crisis lay not only in relieving the burden on the major contributors but in enhancing the capacity to pay of smaller and medium States through more enlightened trade policies and aid from the developed countries.

43. His delegation realized the need to make economies, but any cuts should be designed to stop wastage without prejudicing United Nations programmes and activities in the economic and social field, which were essential for attaining the targets of the Second Development Decade.

44. His delegation favoured the adoption of programme budgeting if it would help to establish a balance between programmes and resources, make better use of resources, rationalize programmes and give greater importance to priorities. It was obvious, however, that a mere change in presentation would not suffice and that a change of attitude was necessary. Member States, large and small, and the Secretariat must co-operate in an atmosphere of confidence. That the United Nations was at present suffering from a crisis of confidence was apparent from the creation of so many control bodies and the increasing importance given to surveys to the detriment of technical activities. A feeling of mistrust, intensified by the financial crisis, could not improve efficiency or help to raise staff morale.

45. With regard to the size of the budget, a comparison should not be made, as it often was, between the growth rate of the United Nations budget and that of national budgets. It was the increase in national expenditures on

defence that should serve as a basis for comparison, because United Nations expenditure should be examined in the context of peace and security. His delegation approved the various reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee, but noted that in spite of the increase in the budget no resources of any note had been devoted to expanding United Nations activities. While accepting without hesitation the budget proposals as revised by the Advisory Committee, his delegation felt that there was room for better utilization of resources. In that connexion, it supported the suggestion made at the previous session by the representative of Tunisia that administrative costs should be cut down and the resultant savings used for expanding the activities of UNIDO and UNCTAD.

46. His delegation welcomed the progress made in regard to programme budgeting and hoped that the mock-up budget would give a clear idea of the sectors to which available resources were being devoted. Programme budgeting had been successfully employed by some of the specialized agencies and, in spite of the complexity of its activities, the United Nations too might achieve good results by that method. The adoption of a biennial budget cycle would also have advantages since activities of the United Nations could thus be planned over a sufficiently long period.

47. At the twenty-fifth session, the Committee had been unable to discuss the planning estimates because the necessary manpower resources could not be exactly determined until the first round of surveys by the Administrative Management Service had been completed. He feared that, contrary to expectations, the Committee might be obliged once again to defer consideration of the planning estimates through failure to receive in good time sufficiently precise information on staff requirements.

48. Some delegations had criticized the activities of the Administrative Management Service because they had been unhappy with the results obtained. It was essential that the independence of the survey teams should be maintained and their recommendations given due consideration. It would be interesting to know which of the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service had been implemented and which postponed or altogether abandoned. That was very important because, in its fifth report<sup>3</sup> on the revised budget estimates for the year 1971, the Advisory Committee had pointed out that once the first cycle of surveys had been completed the Administrative Management Service should examine its own recommendations with a view to determining why some of them had not been implemented and what action was called for. In his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406) the Secretary-General had again stated that the basic aim of the Administrative Management Service was to determine what measures might be taken to improve staff productivity and, as a consequence, to increase to the fullest possible extent the capacity of the Secretariat to accommodate a continually expanding workload. He was glad to note, that, apart from those activities which were to continue on a more or less regular basis, the Secretary-General now intended to entrust to the Administrative

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 11*, paras. 10-15.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 8A*, document A/8008/Add.4, para. 58.

Management Service *ad hoc* studies of specific problems at the request of the heads of offices and departments and more detailed examination of special questions identified in the course of earlier surveys. He hoped that the Committee would be informed of the programme of work of the Administrative Management Service for the coming year so that it would be able to form a more knowledgeable opinion of the Service's activities. The role of the Administrative Management Service should not consist only in recommending reductions in staff; as the Secretary-General had pointed out in his foreword to the budget estimates for 1970,<sup>4</sup> while there might be areas in which economies could be achieved, the survey might also show that in other areas there were some deficiencies in staffing which would have to be remedied.

49. With regard to the International Computing Centre at Geneva, it was regrettable that only the United Nations, WHO and UNDP were at present making use of the Centre. The Committee should seek ways and means of inducing the agencies concerned to make full use of the facilities.

50. His delegation was looking forward with interest to the final report and recommendations of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System. His delegation emphasized that any savings on the salaries of the international staff would, in fact, be detrimental to the developing countries, for the United Nations needed dedicated and devoted staff in order to attain the objectives of the Second Development Decade. The disparities resulting from the Noblemaire principle should, however, be removed and an equitable formula found whereby international staff would not be in an unduly advantageous position compared to staff of comparable national categories. Furthermore, the staff should be deployed in such a way as to ensure their optimum use.

51. He did not think that the Committee should, as some had suggested, proceed to a further critical examination of the budgetary proposals already examined by the Advisory Committee, first, because it had not the time to go into the details of the proposals and, second, because it would be duplicating the work of the Advisory Committee and in most cases would come to the same conclusions. Moreover, the Fifth Committee could not overrule a proposal approved by other Main Committees. It should be wary of arbitrary procedures which would be contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to the norms of international co-operation.

52. With respect to the suggestions for solving the financial problems of the Organization, he supported the suggestion made by the Indian representative (1439th meeting), namely, that surplus revenue and unused balances should not be used to reduce the contributions of Member States but should be paid into the Working Capital Fund. The other Indian suggestion, namely, that Member States which did not pay their contributions at the proper time should be charged interest, required more detailed consideration. In that connexion, he supported the Norwegian representative's proposal that a working group should be set up to study the proposal. The Secretary-General should

inform Member States as soon as possible of the exact amount of their assessment, and the currencies in which they might pay it, in order to enable them to pay their contribution in time and not be penalized. If Member States paid their contributions in time and in a single payment, the Organization's financial situation would be considerably improved.

53. The Office of Public Information had an important role to play under its terms of reference; he would revert to that subject when the Committee considered the Secretary-General's report on the question (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1).

54. He also reserved the right to speak in due course on the building plans for Headquarters and on the Joint Inspection Unit's reports on publications and documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1 and A/8362). While he recognized the need to economize in that field, he thought it was useful to hold conferences or seminars in order to exchange views at the international level.

55. In conclusion, he said that the smaller and developing countries were not in a position to solve the Organization's financial problems and that only the major contributors could restore the United Nations to solvency. He therefore appealed to those countries to remember their obligations under the Charter and their responsibilities towards the developing countries.

*First reading (continued)\**  
(A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)

SECTION 11 — PRINTING (continued)\* (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/ CORR.1, A/C.5/1366)

56. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he would like to have a precise idea of the cost of printing the proceedings of seminars financed from extra-budgetary sources. He would also like to know to what section of the budget that expenditure would be charged if, as the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services had stated (1438th meeting), it was not as a rule charged to section 11. In paragraph 194 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions said that the printing of the proceedings of all seminars financed from extra-budgetary sources would be paid for from the voluntary funds concerned or charged to section 13 and 14 of the budget. He did not think that the Advisory Committee was competent to make a recommendation of that kind; it lay with Member States to decide what should come under the various sections of the budget. Sections 13 and 14 were devoted to the very activities which should benefit the least developed among the developing countries and he was formally opposed to the placing in those sections of expenditure which would reduce the funds devoted to these activities by a corresponding amount. He would like some enlightenment on that subject and reserved the right to submit a formal proposal to that effect.

57. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the recommendation of the Advisory Com-

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6, foreword, para. 12.

\* Resumed from the 1438th meeting.

mittee on section 11 and reserved the right to revert to that section in the second reading in the light of the decision that the Fifth Committee might take after considering the related report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

58. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that he would like to have an approximate idea of the amount of the printing contracts already granted.

59. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) noted that the amount requested in section 11 was considerably higher than in the financial year 1971 and that the increase was particularly large in chapter II relating to recurrent publications. A more rational review of the recurrent publications programme seemed necessary and, in that connexion, he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation. Some publications might be issued less frequently, others might be eliminated. The funds thus saved could be used for programmes of greater use to Member States. In addition, printing contracts should be distributed on the widest possible geographical basis by giving contracts to the developing countries. He supported the recommendations on that subject in paragraph 202 of the Advisory Committee's first report. He also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the estimates in section 11 should be reduced by \$70,000.

60. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services), replying to the representative of India, pointed out that the question of printing the proceedings of seminars should be considered in the light of the objective of those seminars. Although the sole aim of some seminars was to promote an exchange of views, in other cases the publication of the proceedings was considered necessary. In many cases, the decision was not taken until the seminar was in progress. It was therefore not possible to give the exact cost of printing the proceedings of seminars financed from extra-budgetary sources. When such expenditure was known sufficiently ahead of time, it was placed under section 11, chapter III. It was difficult, however, to give a final figure which took into account the printing of the proceedings of all the various seminars and the various printing methods.

61. Replying to the question by the representative of Australia concerning printing contracts awarded by the United Nations, he said that the Publications Board and the Printing Section of the Publishing Service always proceeded in accordance with rules 4.1 and 4.2 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations. At the present time, the Printing Section had not entered into any commitments for 1972. The only commitments concerned the United Nations *Statistical Yearbook* and the *Demographic Yearbook*, which were drawn up on an annual basis. Commitments

already entered into had been within the limits approved for 1971. Expenditure for 1972 would date from 1 January 1972.

62. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the representative of India, pointed out that the Advisory Committee's role was to inform the Fifth Committee of the situation and to make recommendations on the basis not only of figures but of specific evidence.

63. Mr. GUPTA (India) thanked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services for their explanations. He was still convinced, however, that if attempts were made to economize under section 11 by charging printing costs to sections 13 and 14, the funds provided under those sections for assistance to the developing countries would be reduced by a corresponding amount, and that was inadmissible. He would therefore like to know when his delegation might submit its proposal on the subject.

64. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Indian delegation should submit its proposal when sections 13 and 14 were considered.

65. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) pointed out that in paragraph 197 of its first report the Advisory Committee recommended that the list of titles for which provision had been made for 1972 under chapter II should be scrutinized in the light of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the programme of recurrent publications (see A/8362). There were some recommendations in the Joint Inspection Unit's report that might help to reduce printing costs and the Committee would do well to examine the report before voting on section 11.

66. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General's comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit would not be published until about mid-November. He therefore suggested that the Committee should now approve section 11 in first reading and resume its consideration of the section in second reading, in the light of the Joint Inspection Unit's report.

67. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that he understood from the explanations given by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services that the United Nations would not enter into any commitments concerning printing contracts so long as the General Assembly had not voted funds for that purpose. He was therefore prepared to approve section 11 in first reading.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1  
and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-3, A/8428 and Corr.1,  
A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1,  
A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and  
Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376,  
A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381,  
A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and  
Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, E/5038)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 12. SPECIAL EXPENSES  
(A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General, in his budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406) had proposed an amount of \$10,374,900 under section 12, and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 218 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, had recommended a reduction of \$18,500 in that amount. The Fifth Committee would note that the estimate for chapter V of the section was of a provisional nature. Any change in the estimate in question resulting from future General Assembly action would be reflected in a revised estimate to be submitted towards the end of the session. On that basis, the Committee was asked to approve in first reading an amount of \$10,356,400 as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

2. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to paragraph 210 of the Advisory Committee's first report said that the Advisory Committee had indicated in paragraph 211 that the full cost of jointly financed activities had been given but only the cost to be borne by the United Nations had been included in the budget.

3. It would be observed from paragraph 216 of the report that the costs for chapter IX had been maintained at the 1971 level but that the manning table was different: there had been a shift of emphasis from Professional to General Service posts.

4. The recommended reduction of \$18,500 related to the pay research unit, which would not be needed until the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had completed its work. Nevertheless, since the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions

might require temporary assistance in order to provide research data to the Special Committee in 1972, the Advisory Committee had recommended that provision for that purpose should be made in an amount similar to that for 1971.

5. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that under chapter III of section 12, an appropriation of \$8,556,900 was requested to cover amortization of and payment of interest on the United Nations bond issue. As was well known, the entire proceeds of the bonds were used to finance peace-keeping operations in the Congo and the Middle East. The membership of the United Nations had repeatedly recognized that the procedure for meeting expenditure resulting from such operations should differ from that applicable to expenditures under the regular budget, in that the developing countries should be accorded more favourable treatment in the apportionment of such expenditure. In the opinion of his delegation, there was an inconsistency between the recognition of that fact and the apportionment of the expenditure for repayment of the bonds in accordance with criteria applicable to expenditure financed under the regular budget. His delegation therefore requested that chapter III of section 12 be put to the vote separately; it would vote against the estimate proposed under that chapter.

6. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that by buying United Nations bonds some Member States had demonstrated their confidence in and support for the goals of peace and economic and social progress which they pursued through the Organization. Those States should be given some credit for their action for by buying the bonds they had not only given priority to United Nations objectives over national goals, but they had immobilized capital which, if it had been invested at commercial rates and on the terms prevailing on the commercial market, would have brought them much higher returns. It would be seen, therefore, that they had participated in a financial operation designed to alleviate the liquidity crisis which was not directly related to the causes of the deficit. Members of the Committee should not underestimate the goodwill shown by the bond purchasers and the need to retain the confidence of the international financial community; the Organization might find it necessary one day to undertake another bond issue.

7. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that for the reasons explained by the Brazilian representative, he would vote against chapter III of section 12.

8. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that expenditures relating to the United Nations bond issue and the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea resulted from actions which contravened the Charter and should not be included in the Organization's regular budget.

9. Referring to chapter IX of section 12 and to paragraph 45 of the Advisory Committee's first report, he said that the question of the use of the International Computing Centre at Geneva should be considered from the point of view of the need to co-ordinate the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. It was difficult to understand, therefore, why the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, which was composed of the executive heads of all United Nations organizations and agencies, should first decide to set up common data-processing facilities and then show reluctance in using them. His delegation wondered whether, in deciding to establish the Centre, the ACC, the Advisory Committee and even the General Assembly had not over-estimated the need for common data-processing facilities. In the circumstances, however, the only constructive approach to the matter was to ensure that the fullest use possible was made of the Centre. His delegation therefore urged all agencies concerned, particularly those located in Geneva, to review their policies concerning the Centre. It was essential to ensure that the most effective use was made of funds provided by Member States for the specialized agencies whose membership was, for the most part, the same as that of the United Nations.

10. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his Government had bought United Nations bonds in order to demonstrate its support for the Organization. It believed, however, that the principles governing contributions for purposes of amortization of and payment of interest on the bonds should be different from the principles governing contributions to the regular budget. His delegation fully endorsed the comments of the Brazilian representative on the matter and would vote against chapter III.

11. If a separate vote was taken on chapter I, his delegation would abstain for reasons which were well known and, in particular, because of recent events as a result of which the whole question should be viewed in a different context.

12. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) said that if the section was put to the vote chapter by chapter, his delegation would vote against chapter I. The time had come for the United Nations to relinquish responsibility for maintenance of the Memorial Cemetery.

13. His delegation endorsed the comments of the Brazilian representative and would vote against the estimate under chapter III if the section was put to the vote chapter by chapter.

14. Turning to chapter IV, he asked how many African countries had participated in the Triangular Fellowship Programme, how many participants had come from each country and the year in which they had participated, and what criteria governed selection of country and participants.

15. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that in the opinion of his delegation, the expenditures under chapter I were unjustified. Accordingly, Togo would vote against that chapter.

16. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) endorsed the comments of the Brazilian representative concerning chapter III. A

solution to the problem, perhaps along the lines suggested by Mr. Hambro (see A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8), should, however, be found as soon as possible.

17. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), referring to chapter I, said that his delegation had always maintained, in the First and Fifth Committees, that credits for the maintenance of the Memorial Cemetery in Korea should not be included in the regular budget. In view of what had taken place in the General Assembly and of the financial crisis facing the Organization, inclusion of the item should be reviewed. If, therefore, chapter I was put to a vote separately, he would vote against it.

18. Referring to chapter III, he said that the criteria governing assessments for peace-keeping operations should be different from those governing expenses under the regular budget. Despite that reservation, however, his delegation had decided that until new criteria had been agreed upon, it should vote in favour of chapter III.

19. Referring to chapter VIII, he asked what progress had been made in the in-depth study being made of the accounting and expense-sharing procedures of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. Would the findings of the study be communicated to the Fifth Committee in 1971 or 1972?

20. Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, if the section was put to the vote chapter by chapter, his delegation would vote against chapters I and III.

21. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had always respected the principles of the Charter and had always, therefore, opposed the illegal United Nations bond issue, the purpose of which was to meet expenses incurred in violation of the Charter. Under the Charter, all questions concerning peace-keeping operations and their financing should be subject to a decision of the Security Council. Member States were not obliged to meet expenses resulting from a decision contrary to the Charter. His delegation still maintained that position of principle.

22. Expenses incurred in relation to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea were illegal and must be excluded from the budget.

23. His delegation objected to the inclusion in the 1972 estimates of \$92,000 in chapter VII for the Pay Research Unit. The Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had a mandate to study the question of staff salaries and make recommendations to the General Assembly. Therefore, any proposal to establish another organ to deal with salary was premature and unjustified. There was a general rule that all expenses in the budget estimates must be based on a decision of a legislative organ. It would be interesting to know on what decision the provision in question had been included in the estimates.

24. It was strange that neither the Secretary-General nor the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had seen fit to comment on the unprecedented growth in the estimates for the Inter-Organization Board for information systems and related activities. Some explanation was necessary.



25. For all those reasons, his delegation was not in a position to vote in favour of the estimates proposed under section 12.
26. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) said that if chapter I was put to a vote separately, his delegation would abstain.
27. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that for well-known reasons his delegation would vote against chapters I and III if they were voted on separately.
28. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that his delegation supported the inclusion in the regular budget of expenses under chapters I and III. Referring to the Brazilian representative's comments, he said that his delegation would regard as a matter for concern any suggestion that chapter III should be voted out before some alternative method to finance the bond issue had been devised. Such a procedure would leave questions concerning the deficit unanswered and would frustrate efforts being made to solve the financial crisis.
29. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that in view of the success of the seminar for radio broadcasters from broadcasting organizations in six African countries, his delegation was glad to learn that such seminars would be continued under the Triangular Fellowship Programme. It hoped that UNESCO and the United Nations would produce material for educational radio and television broadcasters. Algeria would vote in favour of the estimates under chapter IV and hoped that they would be increased in future years.
30. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that his delegation would vote in favour of chapters I and III if they were voted on separately.
31. Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) said that his delegation would vote against chapter I if it was voted on separately.
32. Mr. KABORE (Upper Volta) requested a separate vote on chapter I.
33. Mr. BERTRÁN (Uruguay) said that his delegation would vote in favour of chapter I. The United Nations had been called upon to maintain peace and its forces had performed their duties to the best of their ability and had tried to protect the right of self-determination of various peoples. Uruguay would abstain in the vote on chapter III in first reading.
34. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation had serious objections to the inclusion in the regular budget of chapters I and III, and would therefore be obliged to vote against both, and against section 12 as a whole.
35. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation's position on chapters I and III was well known; it would vote for both and entirely agreed with the Italian representative's comments on the bond issue. It was vital that the appropriation for the bonds should be retained unless and until there was a separate solution of the whole problem of the Organization's deficit.
36. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that, for the reasons given by the representatives of Brazil and India, his delegation would abstain in a separate vote on chapter I and would vote against chapter III.
37. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation fully agreed with the Italian representative's comments on the bond issue.
38. It also shared the concern expressed by many delegations with regard to the inadequate use of the International Computing Centre at Geneva and urged specialized agencies which were not using the Centre to make full use of its facilities.
39. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) said that, as in the past, his delegation would vote in favour of chapters I and III. The bond issue had been negotiated on certain terms which could not be changed unilaterally and involved a question of trust in the United Nations.
40. His delegation shared the general sense of frustration that the International Computing Centre was not being used as originally intended.
41. Mr. NARKHUU (Mongolia) said that, in keeping with its position of principle, his delegation would vote against chapters I and III and against section 12 as a whole.
42. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) emphasized that his delegation had consistently supported chapters I and III. It would vote in favour of the whole section with the exception of chapter IX on which it would abstain, if a separate vote were taken. Its reservations on that chapter were related to the fact that the Committee was still awaiting the Secretary-General's report on the question of electronic data processing.
43. Mr. ROSS (Liberia) said that his delegation would be unable to vote on section 12 until the Controller had clarified various issues which had been raised.
44. Mr. FRANCIS (Jamaica) endorsed the comments of the representatives of Italy and Japan on chapter III.
45. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that his delegation, whose position was well known, would abstain in the vote on section 12 because it had become a cold war issue. It had always supported the bond issue and he would vote in favour of chapter III.
46. Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, like the representative of Sudan, his delegation opposed chapter III and would vote against it in a separate vote.
47. Mr. LENG SARIN (Khmer Republic) said that his delegation would vote in favour of chapters I and III, on which its position was well known.
48. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) reiterated his delegation's concern that, unless the International Computing Centre at Geneva was utilized to the full, it might be necessary to undertake a reappraisal to determine whether expenditure relating to it was warranted.
49. Mr. SUMANTERA (Indonesia) said that his delegation would abstain in a separate vote on chapters I and III.



50. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that while his delegation would vote in favour of the appropriation under chapter IX at that stage, the Committee should subsequently consider what action should be taken on the question of the International Computing Centre. The adoption of a draft resolution might be the most suitable course. In that connexion, he noted that the Advisory Committee was to return to the question of the Centre when additional information which it had requested became available (see A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 46).

51. The CHAIRMAN said that there would be an opportunity for a full debate on the question of the Centre when the Secretary-General's report on electronic data processing was available.

52. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia) said that his delegation welcomed the decrease in expenditure under chapter I and hoped it would continue until the chapter had been eliminated from the budget. In the meantime, it would abstain on the vote on that chapter and also on chapter III. He supported the Nigerian request for additional information on chapter IV, the Triangular Fellowship Programme.

53. Miss FORCIGNANÓ (Italy) said that her delegation shared the concern expressed in connexion with the International Computing Centre. She agreed with the representative of Brazil that the Committee should consider taking some action to ensure that the specialized agencies made full use of it. The Committee's position could well be expressed in a draft resolution. An unbelievably large sum spent on the Centre had produced only modest results.

54. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) said that his delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the comments of the Brazilian and Italian representatives concerning the need for a draft resolution on the International Computing Centre.

55. Mr. TURNER (Controller), referring to the Nigerian representative's request for information on the Triangular Fellowship Programme, said that the necessary detailed data was not immediately available but would be assembled for an oral statement or a brief report to the Committee.

56. Replying to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he said that it would be necessary to review the question of computer services provided for the Joint Staff Pension Fund in the light of new arrangements planned for 1972. In the judgement of the Secretariat, however, the estimate in chapter VIII represented a reasonable reimbursement for the services currently rendered. He pointed out that the Joint Staff Pension Fund secretariat serviced both the Fund itself and the United Nations Staff Pension Committee so that the allocation of costs was necessarily somewhat arbitrary.

57. As to the USSR representative's comments on section 12, he said that, while it was true that no provision was made for the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System *per se*, the secretariat of CCAQ had had temporary assistance in 1971 for pay research purposes to provide data which the Special Committee had needed. At one stage, there had been a proposal that a pay research unit should be established but the Advisory Committee had recommended, instead, that

the existing temporary arrangements should continue. The United Nations share of the cost of the temporary assistance made available in 1971 to the CCAQ Staff Office for research purposes amounted to some \$12,000. The Advisory Committee had proposed, and the Secretary-General had agreed, that the \$30,000 proposed for 1972 for the pay research unit should be deleted and the \$12,000 for temporary assistance retained to effect a reduction in United Nations budgetary provision of approximately \$18,000. When the Fifth Committee took up the interim report of the Special Committee (A/8428 and Corr.1), a statement of the financial implications of that Committee's work in 1972 would be made available to the Fifth Committee after it had been reviewed by the Advisory Committee.

58. In commenting on the sharp increase in expenditure under chapter VII, the USSR representative had presumably been referring to the increase in the cost of the Inter-Organization Board. The explanation was that the Board had been organized only recently and had functioned during the financial year 1971 on a partial basis and for a limited period. The estimate for 1972, however, was based on the assumption that the Board would be fully operational for the whole of that year.

59. The International Computing Centre had been the subject of much comment and a full report on the question was in an advanced stage of preparation. It would be issued in the near future after its examination by the Advisory Committee. He felt that the purposes of the Fifth Committee would best be served if comment by the secretariat was deferred until the full report was available.

60. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Controller had dispelled some but not all of his delegation's doubts concerning chapter VII. The expenditure on Inter-Organization Board salaries had increased by some \$50,000—almost double the amount for the financial year 1971. He could not understand why there should be additional expenditure of \$40,000 for consultants. If the Board was just beginning its work, the time had surely not come when consultants were absolutely necessary. Why then, had provision been made for consultants?

61. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that all members of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had been most unhappy at the way in which CCAQ had serviced that Committee and hoped that more and better service would be available during 1972.

62. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that, as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee, he fully supported the Indian representative's remarks.

63. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying further to the USSR representative, said that it was contemplated that the Inter-Organization Board would establish a number of task forces to consider the question of interagency co-operation in the field of computers. Those task forces would be staffed from the specialized agencies and by specialists recruited from outside the United Nations family. The whole question was fully covered in the report on the computer situation to which he had referred earlier. The

Secretariat would be able to provide a fuller reply when that report was issued.

64. Mr. ROSS (Liberia) said that the Controller had dispelled many of his doubts and his delegation would be able to participate in the vote on section 12.

65. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation would support chapter IV but would abstain in a separate vote on chapter I.

66. The CHAIRMAN said that he would put chapters I and III to the vote separately, as requested by the representatives of Upper Volta and Brazil respectively, after which section 12 as a whole would be put to the vote.

*The Committee approved in first reading an appropriation in the amount of \$75,100 under chapter I by 41 votes to 21, with 24 abstentions.*

*The Committee approved in first reading an appropriation in the amount of \$8,556,900 under chapter III by 41 votes to 23, with 21 abstentions.*

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 218) for an appropriation in the amount of \$10,356,400 under section 12 was approved in first reading by 64 votes to 11, with 11 abstentions.*

67. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted against chapter III and had abstained on section 12 as a whole because of its opposition to payments from the regular budget for the purposes of the bond issue. Its views on the question of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea required no explanation and it had voted in favour of chapter I.

68. His delegation shared the concern expressed by many speakers concerning the apparent under-utilization of the International Computing Centre at Geneva.

69. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, had his delegation been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of section 12 as a whole, but would have abstained in the separate vote on chapter I.

#### SECTION 11—PRINTING (*concluded*) (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/ CORR.1, A/C.5/1366)

70. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the lack of a quorum had prevented the Committee from voting on section 11 at its previous meeting and invited the Committee to proceed to the vote on that section.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 202) for an appropriation in the amount of \$3,228,700 under section 11 was approved in first reading by 84 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

71. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his delegation's vote in favour of section 11 was provisional; its vote on that section in second reading would depend on the Committee's decision on his Government's proposal concerning printing costs relating to seminars.

#### SECTION 17—SPECIAL MISSIONS (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

72. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General, in his budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), had proposed an amount of \$8,249,000 and the Advisory Committee, in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 290), had recommended a reduction of \$88,300 in that amount.

73. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's proposal for a reduction of \$7,200 under chapter III reflected its view that it should be possible to reduce the staff of UNCURK. The other two reductions which it had proposed were provisional. That recommended under chapter V was made pending a decision on the appointment of a United Nations Commissioner for Namibia and that under chapter VII was made pending the formulation of plans for 1972 by the Special Committee on *Apartheid*. Having regard for the supplementary estimates for the budget for 1971 for chapters V and VII, the Advisory Committee's recommendations could not be regarded as particularly stringent.

74. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said he wished to propose the deletion from section 17 of chapter III. There should be a separate vote on that item of expenditure, which related to the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. The Commission had been established 21 years ago to legitimize the aggression against the people of Korea carried out under the cover of the United Nations flag, and was still being used as a means of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the Korean people. It did not conduce to any slackening of tensions in Korea, and was damaging to the prestige of the United Nations. The General Assembly had decided not to discuss the question of Korea at the current session in order not to prejudice encouraging developments in that area. The Polish delegation had not agreed with that argument, believing that discussion of the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea and the dissolution of UNCURK would foster such developments instead of hampering them. Poland would co-operate in the adoption of decisions that would contribute to a peaceful settlement in Korea without outside interference, and was convinced that most delegates would support such a decision. There was no justification for appropriating some \$300,000 to support such an illegal body when the Organization was in financial straits, particularly since the crisis was partly due to expenditure on such illegal activities. The money should be saved for useful United Nations activities by deleting chapter III from the budget.

75. Mr. GUTPA (India) said that for reasons India had made clear over the years, it would abstain from voting on chapters II and III if there was a separate vote on those items. He supported the views of the Advisory Committee given in paragraph 284 of its first report. Referring to the last sentence of paragraph 290 of the report, he said India's position was the same as the previous year—the matter was one for the appropriate Main Committees to deal with.

76. Mr. BERTRÁN (Uruguay) said that in view of the decision by the General Assembly, the sovereign organ of

the United Nations, not to discuss the Korean question at the current session, he did not understand how the Polish representative could attempt to embark on a discussion of the matter, which was not on the agenda, by raising it in the Fifth Committee. Uruguay would abstain from voting for the appropriation under chapter III.

77. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria), Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic), endorsed the views expressed by the Polish representative.

78. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that his delegation had on several occasions made its views clear in the First Committee, and at the previous session had been a sponsor of a draft resolution to dissolve UNCURK.<sup>1</sup> He supported the Polish proposal for a separate vote on chapter III.

79. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) and Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) said that if there was a separate vote on chapter III, they would vote against it.

80. Mr. MAROOFI (Afghanistan), Mr. FAKIH (Kenya), Mr. BENKIRANE (Morocco) and Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that they would abstain from voting on chapter III, but would vote for section 17 as a whole.

81. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) referred to paragraph 290 of the Advisory Committee's first report, and said he was pleased that that Committee should point out where savings could be made. It was correct that decisions on that question were for the Main Committees of the General Assembly to take, but he took the opposite view from that of the representative of India about the Advisory Committee's right to suggest possible areas for economy.

82. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that the Advisory Committee was exceeding its competence in the last sentence of paragraph 290 of its first report; the question of reducing special missions was one for the inter-governmental committees or organs that had established such missions. If a separate vote was taken on chapter III, he would abstain.

83. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that he would abstain from voting on chapter III if it was voted on separately, because the composition of UNCURK did not accurately reflect the membership of the Organization.

84. Mr. SOTIROV (Bulgaria) said that in line with the position of principle taken by his Government, he would vote against chapter III. It had clearly been stated by over 20 delegations in the General Assembly and the General Committee at the beginning of the current session that UNCURK was an anachronism and had nothing to do with the rehabilitation and reunification of Korea. The United Nations flag had not sufficed to mask the presence of over 50,000 foreign troops in South Korea, which did not conduce to rehabilitation and reunification. He supported the Polish proposal.

85. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ (Cuba) said that UNCURK had been established in violation of the Charter, and was a cover

for the imperialist aggression of the United States against the Korean people over a period of 21 years. Cuba would therefore vote against the item, and supported the Polish proposal to delete it from the budget.

86. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that for many years his delegation had been saying in various United Nations organs that the regular budget of the United Nations was burdened with the cost of illegal activities in violation of the Charter, and one example of that was the existence of UNCURK. It was an inheritance from an imperialist aggression carried out under cover of the United Nations flag for which the United Nations was now paying. It was a tool of the policies of the State that continued to occupy Korea with its troops and was thus an obstacle to the peaceful and democratic reunification of Korea. He would therefore support the Polish proposal that the item should be deleted from the budget. If chapter III was left in the budget, despite the wish of many to delete what was a consequence of the cold war, his delegation would vote against section 17 as a whole.

87. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said the Uruguayan representative had adopted the right approach to the question. He understood that the statements by the Soviet Union and its supporters represented an annual comment, and he wished to balance those statements. The Soviet Union was free to rewrite history as it wished, but the source of the aggression in Korea was known to all. It was unwise for the pot to call the kettle black, and unwise of the Soviet Union, in view of its policy since the Second World War, to accuse others of imperialism.

88. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), replying to the United States representative, said that the latter had made undignified remarks concerning the policy of the Soviet Union. There was no need for the Soviet Union to rewrite history; its position on the United States aggression in Korea was well known, and that position had been held for many years. The Soviet Union had always strongly supported every proposal to withdraw the United States troops sheltering behind the United Nations flag; their continued occupation of South Korea prevented the peaceful and democratic reunification of the country. There was no rewriting of history there. He did not understand the reference to Soviet policies since the Second World War. Throughout its existence the Soviet Union had followed a consistent policy of peace and friendship with all peoples, and had opposed imperialist aggression. The United States should have followed such a policy, instead of its continuing aggression against Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos, and its support of the Israeli aggression against the Arab countries.

89. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said he had reservations concerning the reductions for chapters V and VII recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 287 and 289 of its first report. If there was a separate vote on chapter III, he would vote against it.

90. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia) said that although there appeared to have been a token reduction in the appropriation for chapter III for 1972, it should have been greater. He agreed with paragraph 290 of the Advisory Committee's first report, but if various special missions were to be

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 98, document A/8185, para. 15 (b).

reviewed, UNCURK should be the first. In future it should be excluded from the regular budget. There should be a separate vote on that item, and Tunisia would abstain.

91. Mr. ROSS (Liberia) said he would vote for the appropriation for chapter III since the Korean question had been raised in the General Committee and disposed of until 1972.

92. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said he endorsed the view expressed by the Uruguayan representative. The items submitted by the Secretary-General had all been expressly authorized by the General Assembly. Colombia's position regarding the budget estimates and the financial crisis was well known. It supported all budget items that helped to secure world peace, the most important aims of the Organization.

93. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) said that he would vote against chapter III. He agreed with the remark of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania relating to the cut in the budget estimates for the United Nations Council for Namibia. Possibly a decision on chapter V could be postponed until it was verified that the Advisory Committee's assumptions were correct.

94. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said he would support the appropriation for chapter III. He regretted that the debate had become the occasion for statements that would have been more suitable in other bodies, if the General Committee and the General Assembly had decided that the question was to be discussed at the current session. The Uruguayan delegate had adopted the correct approach. In any case, the future of UNCURK was not a question for the Fifth Committee. As to the rewriting of history, the records of the United Nations had not been rewritten, and were there for anyone to consult. The records showed which countries had voted against UNCURK, and that some countries that now strongly opposed it had not voted against it originally.

95. Commenting on paragraph 290 of the Advisory Committee's first report, he pointed out that the Advisory Committee could draw attention to administrative and budgetary questions, but special missions would also involve political decisions that would not be within the competence of that Committee.

96. Mr. LENG SARIN (Khmer Republic), noting that the Soviet representative had referred to United States aggression in Cambodia, said that there was no such aggression; troops were merely repelling the invading forces of North Viet-Nam and the Viet-Cong.

97. The CHAIRMAN said that the vote on chapter V should not be deferred, as the representative of Nigeria had suggested; the Advisory Committee would be informed of any changes affecting chapters V and VII, and any necessary amendments to the estimates could be made in second reading.

98. He proposed that the Committee should first take the separate vote on chapter III requested by Poland.

99. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) asked that the Committee should vote on the proposal that chapter III should be deleted from the regular budget.

100. The CHAIRMAN said that a separate vote on chapter III would amount to the same thing, since the Fifth Committee could only delete financial provisions from the budget, and not items.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation in the amount of \$291,100 under chapter III was approved in first reading by 37 votes to 27, with 26 abstentions.*

101. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) and Mr. GONCHARENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that they would vote against section 17 as a whole because it included an appropriation for UNCURK.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 290) for an appropriation in the amount of \$8,160,700 under section 17 was approved in first reading by 71 votes to 11, with 7 abstentions.*

102. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) said that he had abstained from voting for section 17, *inter alia*, because it included appropriations for activities that South Africa believed to be *ultra vires* the Charter. His country's views on that point had been made clear on previous occasions.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1441st meeting)

*Honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.3, A/C.5/1365)*

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Fifth Committee to consider the proposal by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1365) and the recommendation by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.3) that the annual honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should be increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 net, effective 1 January 1972. Should the Fifth Committee approve the proposal, the increase of \$20,000 would be included in the amount to be considered for section 1 of the 1972 budget estimates, in first reading.

2. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that he found the proposal reasonable. With the growth of the membership, structure and activities of the United Nations, the role of the Advisory Committee had become more onerous and its Chairman was now engaged full-time on the Committee's work. He hoped that the Fifth Committee would be able to adopt the proposal by consensus.

3. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia), Mr. GUPTA (India) and Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) endorsed the view expressed by the representative of Canada.

4. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation took a rather different view. He agreed that the Advisory Committee, and its Chairman, had an important function. But in his view that body, as a group of independent experts, could not be regarded as a subdivision of the Secretariat. Though the experts worked in their individual capacity, the Advisory Committee was still an intergovernmental body. The Advisory Committee was independent of the Secretariat, whose financial activities it was called on to control to some extent. That relationship could be undermined if the Chairman of the Advisory Committee received his honorarium from the Secretariat as part of the regular budget of the United Nations. The measure proposed might at first sight appear calculated to ensure greater independence for the Chairman, but in fact it might encroach on his independence. It was not clear why the Chairman had not had such an honorarium in the past but had received the same allowance as the other members of the Advisory Committee. It was

true that the functions of the Advisory Committee and the volume of work had expanded, but it was still meeting at specific sessions and was not in permanent session. It had been said that the Chairman was in a different position from the other members because he had to participate in the work of such other bodies as the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. But the latter were also sessional, and not standing, committees. There did not seem to be any qualitative change in the workload of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and, since he had not received such an honorarium in the past, there appeared to be no grounds for changing arrangements that had existed for a long time.

5. Accordingly, his delegation had serious doubts about the desirability of the solution proposed by the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee should discuss the proposal in detail, instead of approving it outright. It should consider whether the proposed figure was too high, and whether it might create a precedent for other bodies.

6. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that Iraq endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation, particularly in view of his remarks in paragraph 5 of his report (A/C.5/1365). The Secretary-General considered that the change was necessary in order to ensure the independence of the Chairman, if he had no other source of income. While he appreciated the view expressed by the Soviet representative, he did not consider the proposed figure high, in view of the recent rise in the salaries of United Nations staff and the increase in the cost of living in New York and elsewhere.

7. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) supported the proposal. The Advisory Committee was one of the most effective bodies in the United Nations; its volume of work had increased steadily in recent years, and the main burden fell on its Chairman. In addition to the duties already referred to, the Chairman had to be available between sessions to provide a permanent link between the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee. An important proviso to the proposal was stated in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report in the words: "provided he is not actively engaged on behalf of his Government or other body". In view of that proviso, and of the high qualities needed, he considered \$25,000 the minimum honorarium that should be offered.

8. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) noted that the honorarium already existed, and the proposal was merely that it should be adjusted in accordance with present needs. It was an important proviso that the Chairman should not be actively engaged on behalf of his Government or other body. The payment of an honorarium would not jeopardize the Chairman's integrity or independence; many such

honoraria were paid out of the regular budget to other United Nations appointees, such as the Judges of the International Court of Justice, without any doubts being cast on their integrity or independence.

9. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) supported the views expressed by the representatives of Canada and Iraq.

10. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that, although he agreed that the Advisory Committee and its Chairman were doing very useful work and that their workload had increased, he did not find the present moment opportune for such a change. The financial crisis meant that all possible restraint must be exercised. Consequently, the matter should be deferred.

11. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly his delegation had agreed with the proposal for an increase, but had suggested that the amount should be \$20,000. In view of the heavier demands on the Chairman, it would now agree to the figure of \$25,000, subject to the proviso stated in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report.

12. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) observed that the Advisory Committee was in a special position. It was essential to the functioning of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly, and it was an expert committee engaged in full-time work, at least so far as the Chairman was concerned. In a broader context there might be problems of principle, but in the case of the Advisory Committee it was clear that, if the necessary qualifications were wanted, appropriate provision must be made to obtain them. He agreed with the representative of Brazil that the independence of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee would be no more endangered than was that of the Judges of the International Court of Justice. In neither case were the emoluments paid by the Secretariat; the amounts were authorized by the General Assembly. He supported the Secretary-General's proposal, subject to the proviso specified in paragraph 8 of his report.

13. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that the increase was justified, and he would have no difficulty in voting for it.

14. Mr. NAUDY (France) supported the proposal for the reasons given by other speakers. In particular, he agreed with the representatives of Brazil and the Netherlands that the fact that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee received his honorarium from the regular budget could not possibly diminish his impartiality. The Chairman was not a member of the Secretariat, but was elected by the General Assembly as a member of the Advisory Committee, and by the other members as their Chairman. He was paid by the United Nations, just as were the Judges of the International Court of Justice. That arrangement had certainly not impaired the impartiality of the Judges, and it would not impair that of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

15. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) recalled that, at the preceding session, the outgoing Chairman of the Advisory Committee had explained (1409th and 1417th meetings) his difficulties and the Fifth Committee had said that it

would give favourable consideration to the question when it had received a report from the Secretary-General. There were good reasons for agreeing to the proposal now submitted, subject to the proviso in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report, if the Fifth Committee wanted the Advisory Committee to have a competent and objective Chairman working full-time. The honorarium must not be so attractive as to create competition for the post, nor so small that the necessary expertise could not be obtained. The Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 8 of his report provided against both those dangers, and Pakistan would support it. It would be useful to know if there was any position similar to that of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to which the decision now being considered could apply as a precedent.

16. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) associated himself with those who had supported the proposal. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had a unique position in the United Nations, and consequently the fact that he received an honorarium, of whatever size, did not make him a member of the Secretariat. The decision should not be used as a precedent for other cases, which must be decided on their merits. The present proposal had obvious merits, and he would vote for it.

17. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that he supported the proposal and agreed, in particular, with the views expressed by the representatives of Brazil and the Netherlands.

18. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) suggested that some of the difficulties which had been mentioned might be obviated if the Fifth Committee were to put into its report that its decision should be regarded as *sui generis*, in view of the special functions of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

19. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proposed change in the honorarium was great enough to be qualitative and thus to create a new situation: it could not be regarded merely as an adjustment. The recent increase in staff salaries had been 8 per cent; the increase in the honorarium would be fivefold. The reference to Secretariat salaries indicated that there was some link between the emoluments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the salaries of the Secretariat. Moreover, he did not believe that the difference between the workload of the members of the Advisory Committee and that of their Chairman was great enough to justify such a difference in what they received. That might lead to friction. The Chairmanship should perhaps be rotated, so as to share the burden of work, since all the members of the Advisory Committee were highly competent. To make an unnecessary distinction between the Chairman and the other members would be detrimental to the functioning of the Advisory Committee. He did not believe that the proposal was the correct solution, and he would vote against it.

20. Miss FORCIGNANÓ (Italy) said that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had a special role and was engaged full-time. The representative of Belgium had rightly pointed out that the case was *sui generis*, and she supported his suggestion that it should be made clear that the decision applied to a special situation and did not set any precedent.

1 See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 79, document A/8265, paras. 11-12.

21. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) said that, like most of those who had spoken, he was in favour of increasing the honorarium. He agreed with the Soviet representative that to some extent the increase introduced a new element, but the purpose of the proposal was to deal with the new situation created by the increased workload and the fact that the Chairman now had to be engaged full-time in the work of the Advisory Committee. He did not believe that the change would constitute an invidious distinction between the Chairman and the other members of the Advisory Committee, or that there was any link between the Chairman's honorarium and Secretariat salaries. As the representative of the Netherlands had pointed out, the Chairman's emoluments were authorized by the General Assembly and were merely disbursed by the Secretariat as an agent. The fivefold increase should not be compared with the single recent increase of 8 per cent in Secretariat salaries, since there had been many other increases in those salaries in the past. Iran fully supported the proposed increase.

22. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) pointed out that the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had been steadily growing. The increased honorarium appeared justified, in view of the requirements of the post. He agreed with the representatives of Belgium and Italy that the Fifth Committee should emphasize that its decision was not to constitute a precedent. He had no objection to the proposal.

23. Mr. FERNÁNDEZ MAROTO (Spain) said he would support the proposal, for the reasons stated by the representative of Brazil and many other speakers.

24. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the recommended increase.

25. Mr. LENG SARIN (Khmer Republic) said that his delegation supported and would vote in favour of the Secretary-General's recommendation.

26. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that, while his delegation supported the recommendation, it nevertheless agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that the Fifth Committee's decision should not set a precedent for other bodies. It would be inclined, therefore, to support the Belgian representative's suggestion that the Fifth Committee should make it clear in its report that the decision was not to set a precedent.

27. Mr. ROSS (Liberia) said that serious consideration should be given to the comments of the representative of the Soviet Union. It should also be borne in mind that, if the recommendation was approved, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee might feel under an obligation to the Secretary-General, who had made the recommendation, rather than to the Fifth Committee, which should have originated the proposal. Perhaps the Fifth Committee would be able to agree on a compromise figure of \$15,000, which would represent a threefold increase in the honorarium.

28. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) endorsed the comments of the representatives of the Soviet Union and Poland. It seemed inopportune to suggest

such a great change in the emoluments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, particularly since the Advisory Committee was supposed to assist the Fifth Committee in reducing the expenses of the Organization.

29. To clarify the matter further, his delegation would be interested to learn what was the duration of Advisory Committee sessions and whether there had been any changes in duration in recent years.

30. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that, in view of the financial difficulties facing the Organization, the Fifth Committee should exercise caution in dealing with the question. Some increase in the honorarium was in order, but increases in the honorarium should on no account be linked with increases in staff salaries. In that connexion, it might be pertinent to recall that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had received only a special allowance between 1948 and 1957 and an honorarium of \$5,000 plus an allowance between 1958 and 1971. The current discussion related to a third stage in the evolution of the question.

31. Mr. BERTRÁN (Uruguay) said that his delegation was favourably disposed to the Belgian representative's suggestion. In the meantime, it would be interested to know whether the Secretary-General had made, or contemplated making, any proposals for increases in the honoraria paid to members of other bodies.

32. Mr. KABORÉ (Upper Volta) observed that the views of many delegations in the present discussion were surprisingly different from the opinions they had expressed on the financial situation of the Organization in the general discussion. The budgetary impact of the recommendation under discussion would be quite significant. Furthermore, it would seem that insufficient attention had been paid to the alternatives mentioned in paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report on the matter (A/8408/Add.3). Although his delegation would vote in favour of the recommendation, it hoped that its reservations would be reflected in the Fifth Committee's report.

33. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the question raised by the representative of Pakistan, said that he was not aware of any parallels that might be drawn so far as members of the Secretariat were concerned. From time to time consultants were engaged on an honorarium basis, but the situation had been aptly summed up by the representative of Belgium, who had said that the position of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was *sui generis*.

34. Referring to the question raised by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR, he said it was estimated that in 1972 the Advisory Committee would be in session on a continuous basis for at least 24 weeks. The normal pattern was for it to hold a spring session of from two to four weeks in Europe and a summer session of about six weeks at Headquarters. In addition, it convened shortly before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly and met during the Assembly session whenever the Fifth Committee was not meeting. In recent times, it had become an obligation for the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to be available to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination when those bodies met, and he was also



required to participate in meetings of the Governing Council of UNDP and other bodies. There had also been occasions when he had performed liaison functions with *ad hoc* committees of an administrative and budgetary character established by the General Assembly.

35. Replying to the representative of Uruguay, he said that no proposal involving increases in the honoraria paid to members of other bodies would, so far as the Secretary-General was concerned, come before the Fifth Committee during the current session.

36. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked what criteria governed the emoluments paid to the presiding officers of other bodies, such as the International Civil Service Advisory Board and the United Nations Administrative Tribunal.

37. Mr. TURNER (Controller) referred members to the annex to General Assembly resolution 2489 (XXIII) which listed the persons to whom the payment of honoraria had been authorized on an exceptional basis by the Assembly. It would be noticed that the honoraria were of relatively token amounts.

38. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the "token" amounts included subsistence and travel allowances or whether they consisted only of honoraria.

39. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that normal subsistence and travel allowances were paid in addition. Members of the bodies listed received honoraria ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 a year for services they performed during, and in some cases between, meetings of the bodies. As compared with the Advisory Committee, the bodies listed met for relatively short periods of time.

40. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) asked what changes had occurred in recent years in the number and duration of Advisory Committee meetings.

41. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said it was generally recognized that the work situation of the Advisory Committee had undergone a significant change over the past few years. The Chairman was engaged in the work of the Advisory Committee for between nine and ten months of the year. That did not necessarily mean that he worked an eight-hour day throughout that time; sometimes he worked much more than eight hours, but on other occasions the pressure was less heavy. In addition to the obligations which he (Mr. Turner) had mentioned earlier, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had to be available for urgent consultations on emergency decisions requiring the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. In the last five years the Advisory Committee had been under continuous pressure and the responsibilities and obligations of its Chairman had expanded accordingly.

42. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that the comments of the representative of the Soviet Union should cause delegations to reconsider their views on the question. It was possible that the effect of the recommendation would be to add a new post to the Secretariat manning table rather than merely to increase the honorarium paid to

the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Many questions had been raised during the discussion which his delegation would like to examine in depth. He therefore proposed that a decision should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session.

43. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that, although his delegation greatly appreciated the important work done by the Advisory Committee, it seriously doubted the wisdom of increasing the Chairman's honorarium to \$25,000. An honorarium of that size would be comparable to the salaries paid to senior members of the Secretariat. It would be interesting to know whether the responsibilities of the Chairman were very much greater than those of the other members of the Advisory Committee.

44. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the Controller could give definite figures showing that the Chairman had in fact attended more meetings of the Advisory Committee and other bodies in 1971 than in 1970 or 1969. It would also be interesting to know whether CPC, the Governing Council of UNDP and the other bodies mentioned by the Controller had taken decisions to the effect that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee must attend their meetings.

45. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that, although his delegation had initially felt that it could easily support the recommendation, the arguments of the representative of the Soviet Union had caused it to reconsider the matter. Adoption of the recommendation might imply that the chairmanship of the Advisory Committee was a paid position. The question should be viewed in the context of the financial crisis facing the Organization. He therefore fully supported the Argentine representative's proposal.

46. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the honorarium, whatever its amount, was in no way related to the salary of a member of the Secretariat. To the extent that there was any relationship, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should receive at least as much as an Under-Secretary-General. Further, the honorarium was in no way related to the inflationary situation prevailing in New York or to the workload of the Advisory Committee. The Chairman of that Committee was in a unique position. A certain problem had arisen after the previous incumbent of the office had left, and it was with a view to solving such problems that the recommendation had been made. The members of the Advisory Committee had probably had that situation in mind when they had, wisely, come to the conclusion mentioned in paragraph 5 of their report. In the circumstances, he could not endorse any proposal to defer a decision on the matter.

47. Mr. OUATTARA (Ivory Coast) said that while he did not question the need to increase the honorarium, the extent of the proposed increase was surprising in view of the Organization's financial situation. Unless additional arguments in favour of the increase could be advanced, his delegation would be unable, at the present stage, to support the recommendation.

48. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said he could not agree that a decision should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session. At the twenty-fifth session, in his statement at the



1409th meeting of the Fifth Committee, the outgoing Chairman of the Advisory Committee had given adequate reasons for increasing the honorarium. If necessary he would insist that the Argentine representative's proposal should be put to the vote.

49. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) said that the arguments advanced by the representative of the Soviet Union should be studied carefully. An increase in the honorarium was plainly necessary if the United Nations, including the Fifth Committee, was to be able to count on the services of a highly qualified person. On the other hand, his delegation shared the concern of those who felt that such an increase would have the effect of turning the position into a permanent Secretariat post. It might be necessary, therefore, to envisage changing the manner in which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was appointed and to consider the possibility of his being elected directly by the General Assembly or the Fifth Committee for a term of one year at a time. Since that was another matter the Fifth Committee should consider, he endorsed the Argentine representative's proposal.

50. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that he would oppose any proposal to defer the decision to the twenty-seventh session.

51. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) expressed concern at the turn which the debate had taken. The Fifth Committee was contemplating postponing a decision on a practical proposal as if no more than an academic exercise were involved. The Fifth Committee would be unable to deal with the many technical questions that came before it unless it could count on the collaboration of a highly qualified Advisory Committee whose Chairman was, by tradition, an expert capable of providing the necessary guidance. In view of the arguments advanced by the previous Chairman of the Advisory Committee, by the Secretary-General and by the Advisory Committee itself, common sense dictated that a decision must be taken at the current session. He therefore fully endorsed the New Zealand representative's comments.

52. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said he could not support the argument that adoption of the recommendation might have the effect of changing the position of Chairman of the Advisory Committee into a permanent Secretariat post. The present honorarium was inadequate. He therefore proposed that the Secretary-General's recommendation should be put to the vote.

53. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) said that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee undoubtedly held a very responsible position, and it was true that the present honorarium was inadequate. The question was whether the recommended honorarium of \$25,000 was excessive. It would be interesting, in that connexion, to hear the answer to the question put by the representative of Czechoslovakia. The best course might be to postpone a decision for the time being, in order to permit further consultations on the question.

54. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia) said that the Secretary-General's proposal presented certain difficulties for his delegation. The problem was not that the functions of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee did not warrant the

proposed increase but, rather, that he might become to some extent an international civil servant. His delegation was also concerned that adoption of the proposal might be construed as a precedent; a stipulation that it was *sui generis* would be open to challenge. He felt that the token payment to the Chairman should be continued and that the Assembly should increase the subsistence allowance or introduce some new allowance to ensure the Chairman's independence from the Secretariat. His delegation would abstain in a vote on the Secretary-General's proposal as it stood but would support a recommendation that the Chairman's remuneration should be increased by means of subsidies of the kind he had mentioned.

55. Mr. BERTRÁN (Uruguay) said that it would be unjust to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to prolong the current situation by adopting the Argentine proposal. The honorarium, unchanged since 1957, was markedly inadequate and was not commensurate to the status and responsibilities of the Chairman. Nevertheless, the serious reservations expressed by certain delegations called for a study in depth of the whole situation. In particular, the doubts as to whether the proposal involved the establishment of a new and permanent position in the Organization's manning table should be resolved.

56. With regard to the Tunisian representative's remarks, he asked whether consideration had been given to an alternative formula involving a smaller increase in the honorarium than was proposed and a parallel increase in allowances. A composite solution of that kind would overcome the reservations that had been expressed concerning the establishment of a permanent post. The increase proposed was large but was commensurate to the status of the post. A possible solution would be to double the honorarium of \$5,000 and to raise the special allowance of \$50 per day to a level approximating to the over-all figure proposed to the Fifth Committee.

57. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that the Secretary-General's proposal was based essentially on the statement made at the preceding session by the outgoing Chairman of the Advisory Committee. That statement, in turn, had been based on two premises—one relating to inflation and the other to the need to safeguard the independence of the Chairman by increasing his honorarium to the point where he was not dependent on government funds for his subsistence. If that approach was accepted, it could equally well be argued that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was the only one of the 12 members of the Committee who was an independent servant of the United Nations and the other members of the Committee could not be objective because they were paid by their Governments; nevertheless, they equally served the General Assembly for five months. His delegation did not consider that a sound approach. It could be argued that, unless a special honorarium was paid to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the circle from which he could be recruited would be narrowed. That, however, was an assumption which had not been proved, and the time to consider it would be when the situation arose. It was not likely that a Government would propose a candidate for the post of Chairman of the Advisory Committee and then withhold the necessary financial support. His delegation considered that the whole question should be studied further.

58. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation, like certain others, felt that the arguments in support of the Secretary-General's proposal were rather weak. In paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1365), it was stated that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had been invited to attend sessions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; however, the Advisory Committee did not submit reports to either of those bodies, because they did not deal with budgetary questions. The first sentence of paragraph 6 referred to the tasks entrusted by the Advisory Committee to its Chairman, but the report did not explain what tasks had been entrusted to him to date. The same paragraph stated that, while the duties entrusted to the Chairman might not require his constant attendance between sessions of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General felt that the latter would wish at all times to have first call on his services. Clearly, that was no more than a hypothesis. Furthermore, to increase the honorarium of the Chairman would give his office a status which it did not have. The Advisory Committee functioned as a collective body taking decisions by consensus. He would therefore welcome information on the extent to which the Chairman could appear before various other bodies and speak for the Advisory Committee and on whether he was in fact entitled to present his own opinions to such bodies as being those of the Advisory Committee, especially where a particular issue had not been considered by the Advisory Committee.

59. For those reasons, his delegation agreed with the views expressed, in particular, by the representatives of Argentina and Hungary. It felt that the whole question should be deferred until the detailed information requested by the representatives of the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR was available, together with details of the tasks which the Advisory Committee had entrusted or proposed to entrust to its Chairman.

60. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) said that, since its establishment, the Advisory Committee had had three Chairmen, each of whom had been completely independent of his Government. The current Chairman was devoting all his time to the Advisory Committee. Consequently, there had been and was a distinction between the Chairman and the other members of the Advisory Committee in that the latter were also representatives of their Governments in the Fifth Committee. The issue would not be resolved by postponing a decision on the Secretary-General's proposal. The question was one of judgement and evaluation. Having regard to the details given to the Fifth Committee by the Controller, he agreed with the representative of India that the duties involved in the post justified remuneration equivalent to that of an Under-Secretary-General. The honorarium proposed was merely designed to allow the Chairman to subsist and to retain his independence.

61. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the Fifth Committee appeared to be losing sight of certain essential points. First, the proposal before it had been made by the Secretary-General because, having regard to the large number of States represented in the Fifth Committee, it would be difficult for the Committee itself to draft such a proposal. Second, the Advisory Committee was an organ of the General Assembly, as was clear from rule 158 of the

Assembly's rules of procedure. Third, the office under consideration was so unique that there was no danger of its being equated with the chairmanship of other bodies; in any event the Fifth Committee's decision could stipulate that it was *sui generis*. He noted that it was the Advisory Committee, and not the Secretariat, that had drawn the comparison between the honorarium of the Chairman and the salary of a senior member of the Secretariat. The honorarium proposed was reasonable in the light of that comparison.

62. He also found it curious that the Secretariat should be asked to provide the Fifth Committee with details of the workload of one of the General Assembly's own Committees. It would be a disservice to the Fifth Committee and the Assembly to postpone once again a decision on the matter under consideration.

63. Mr. MARTÍNEZ (Venezuela) said that, while he found the Secretary-General's proposal reasonable, he had some doubts as to whether it was timely. The Fifth Committee would do well to postpone a decision on it, and he supported the Argentine representative's proposal.

64. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as a major argument in favour of the Secretary-General's proposal was that the workload of the Advisory Committee had considerably increased, it was extremely important that, before a vote was taken, the Fifth Committee should be provided with the information requested.

65. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that he was not at the moment in a position to quote specific statistics with regard to the number of meetings held by the Advisory Committee. He pointed out, however, that the increase in the workload had taken place since 1957, when the emoluments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had last been discussed. As to the attendance of the Chairman at meetings of the bodies referred to in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, it was clear that those bodies were seeking the closer involvement of the Chairman in the decisions which they were called upon to take. He agreed that no final decision taken by those bodies required the attendance of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee throughout their session.

66. Commenting on the remarks of the representative of Uruguay, he said that many alternative arrangements had been canvassed, carefully examined and discarded in the light of principles established by the General Assembly. The proposal before the Fifth Committee was the most practical, but he did not think that it would be appropriate for a member of the Secretariat to evaluate the role of the Chairman in comparison with that of the other members of the Advisory Committee. He would merely observe that, of the members of the Advisory Committee, the Chairman was the most persistent in goading the Secretariat along the path of budgetary rectitude.

67. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the information given by the Controller was not sufficient. His delegation sought specific figures for at least the previous three or four years. The Fifth Committee could then judge whether the increase in the workload of

the Advisory Committee had been such as to justify a fivefold increase in the honorarium of its Chairman.

68. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Argentine proposal that a decision on the matter before it should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session.

*The proposal was rejected by 49 votes to 18, with 10 abstentions.*

69. In reply to a question put by Mr. FAKIH (Kenya), the CHAIRMAN said that the proposal in document A/C.5/1365 would entail payment of the normal subsistence allowance to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee when he was away from Headquarters. He would put the proposal itself to the vote at the following meeting, to allow the Secretariat time to provide the information requested during the current meeting.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 80**

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (concluded)\*

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.9)*

1. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.9) on agenda item 80, which was self-explanatory and as concise as was consistent with accuracy.

2. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had no objection to the text of the draft report. However, he noted that paragraph 10 reflected the positions of delegations with regard to the payment of contributions in currencies other than United States dollars but, apparently for technical reasons, omitted to describe that of his own delegation with regard to paragraph (c) of General Assembly resolution 2654 (XXV). He hoped that the Rapporteur could agree to the addition to the paragraph of a single sentence reflecting that position. He further suggested, in order to reflect what had actually transpired, that in paragraph 11 the word "unanimously" be replaced by the words "without objection".

3. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, agreed to both suggestions.

*The draft report (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.9), as amended, was adopted.<sup>1</sup>*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-3, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, E/5038)

\* Resumed from the 1430th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> For the text, see A/8489.

*Honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (concluded) (A/8408/Add.3, A/C.5/1365)*

4. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division), replying to a request made by the USSR representative at the previous meeting for information on the frequency of meetings of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in recent years, read out the dates of the Advisory Committee's sessions during the period from 1967 to 1970. Those dates confirmed the statement in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1365) that, in recent years, the Advisory Committee had been in session for nearly six months of the year. Yet that was not the complete picture. Since 1957, when the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had been determined, the United Nations system and the Organization itself had become considerably more complex. For example, the 1957 budget estimates had contained no provision for either UNCTAD or UNIDO, and it was significant that the Advisory Committee's report on the budget estimates for 1957 had consisted of 250 draft pages whereas its corresponding report for 1970 had totalled 400 draft pages. The report on the budget estimates was only one of the many reports which it prepared each year. In addition, the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Administrative Management Service had increased the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee, and the volume of its documentation had grown considerably since 1957. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee must, if he was to keep himself informed of the views of Governments, familiarize himself with all that documentation, much of which was published between sessions of his Committee. The Chairman had also been invited to attend the sessions of bodies such as the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, and in its most recent report the Governing Council of UNDP had expressed a desire for co-ordination and co-operation with the Advisory Committee.

5. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the information provided by the Director of the Budget Division showed clearly that there had been no increase since 1967 in the number of meetings held yearly by the Advisory Committee. That was precisely what his delegation had contended, and arguments based on the assertion that there had been such an increase were obviously invalid. While the budget had grown considerably since 1957, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was not alone in dealing with the resulting complexities; he was assisted by the other members of the Advisory Committee. He failed to understand, therefore, why so great a distinction should be made between the Chairman and the other members. Furthermore, during the general discussion many delegations, especially those of developing countries, had

emphasized their regret—which his delegation shared—that the growth in the budget was due to the expansion of administrative expenditure, rather than of programmes. He had therefore been surprised to note that some of the same delegations were perfectly prepared to agree to the increase in unnecessary and purely administrative expenditure entailed in the proposal before the Committee. The logic of such an approach escaped his delegation.

6. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that, while appreciating the Secretary-General's arguments in support of an increase in the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the increased complexity of the latter's functions, he felt that there were insufficient grounds for such an increase. He also endorsed the judicious reasoning of the representative of Tunisia regarding the consequences of a decision to increase the Chairman's honorarium. The Fifth Committee might stipulate that its decision was *sui generis*, but that would not prevent the submission of similar proposals from other quarters as a chain reaction. For those reasons, his delegation would oppose the proposal if it was put to the vote.

7. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the merits of the proposal before the Committee had been thoroughly discussed, and he proposed that it should be put to the vote.

8. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) observed that much had been said concerning the independence of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. He had no doubt whatsoever that, regardless of the level of the honorarium for that office, the incumbent would remain completely independent—as every Chairman had been since the Committee's establishment. The Chairman was not appointed by the Secretary-General, the proposal would not involve the establishment of a new post in the Secretariat manning table, and the honorarium would be voted each year by the General Assembly. The fact that the increase involved was fivefold was tempered by the very low level of the current honorarium. As to its setting a precedent, every similar case would have to be decided on its own merits, and the Fifth Committee would be perfectly entitled to reject a like proposal in future.

9. The information given by the Director of the Budget Division and in the documentation before the Fifth Committee did not show how many meetings the Advisory Committee had held during each session. If the impression had arisen that the Chairman's workload was static, the fault lay in the fact that the proposal had been presented to the Fifth Committee with insufficient supporting detail. The workload had indeed increased, and other bodies were formulating proposals which would increase it further. In any event, he agreed with the representative of Canada that all the merits of the proposal had been thoroughly discussed.

10. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said his delegation agreed with the principle that the honorarium should be increased but found it difficult to support an increase of the magnitude proposed. It would be wiser to consider the question further with a view to seeking a compromise figure for the increase, assuming that the Fifth Committee agreed that the Chairman's workload had increased. If the proposal was put to the vote as it stood, his delegation would abstain.

11. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that his delegation would abstain from voting on the proposal because the increase recommended was far from negligible and might have an adverse effect on the Advisory Committee's performance of its vital work.

12. Mr. MAKUFU (Zaire) said that his delegation would abstain for reasons stated during the debate.

13. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the proposal of the Secretary-General that the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should be increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per annum, effective 1 January 1972 (see A/C.5/1365, para. 8). Should the Committee approve the increase, the \$20,000 would be included in the amount to be considered for section 1 of the 1972 budget estimates in first reading.

*The proposal was adopted by 47 votes to 14, with 17 abstentions.*

14. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had supported the principle that the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee should be increased, for the reasons advanced by the Secretary-General. It had, however, voted at the preceding meeting in favour of postponing a decision on the proposal because the amount of the increase implied a substantive change in the work of the Advisory Committee and created a new situation in that respect.

15. Mr. FERNANDEZ MAROTO (Spain) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the proposal, which it regarded as just for reasons adequately stated during the debate. It hoped that the small expenditure involved would lead to savings of very considerable sums for the United Nations through the removal from its budget of unnecessary expenditure.

16. Mr. AL-QANDI (Kuwait) said that his delegation had abstained for the reasons stated at the previous meeting by the representatives of Australia and the Upper Volta and at the current meeting by the representative of the Sudan.

17. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the preceding meeting the representative of Belgium had proposed the inclusion in the Committee's report of a statement along the following lines: "The Committee is of the opinion that the decision which was taken should be considered *sui generis*, in view of the special character of the post of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee."

18. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he would prefer the expression "*sui generis*" to be in plain English.

19. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation did not object to the wording proposed but wondered whether it was ethical for the Fifth Committee, having increased the emoluments of an officer appointed on its recommendation, to rule out the possibility of higher emoluments for others. Such an action might be construed to mean that the Fifth Committee was concerned only with its own interests.

20. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in order to overcome the objection of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the words "*sui generis*", the Belgian proposal might read "...should not be considered as setting a precedent...". It was his understanding that the decision would not prevent another Committee from proposing an increase in the emoluments of any officer. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the Belgian proposal, revised as he had suggested.

*It was so decided.*

*First reading (continued)\* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 1. TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND CORR.1, A/8408/ADD.3, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366)

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider section 1 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406) in first reading. In the budget estimates and in his report on the revised estimates (A/C.5/1366), the Secretary-General had proposed for section 1 an amount of \$1,467,700. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its related reports (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) recommended reductions of \$85,000 in the initial estimates by the Secretary-General and \$5,000 in the revised estimates. The total amount recommended by the Advisory Committee was therefore \$1,377,700. Having regard to the decision just taken by the Fifth Committee concerning the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, however, the amount of \$20,000 should be added to the total recommended by the Advisory Committee.

22. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the reduction of \$85,000 proposed in paragraph 82 of the Advisory Committee's first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) was a reflection of the Advisory Committee's experience that travel entitlements tended not to be taken up to the full extent.

23. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked whether, in recommending its reductions, the Advisory Committee had taken account of the admission of new Members to the United Nations and the resultant expenditure on travel costs.

24. He noted that the estimate for the Commission on Human Rights included provision for the attendance at its meeting of a representative of the Commission on the Status of Women. He appreciated that the provision had been made in accordance with General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions but thought that the Fifth Committee might suggest to the Third Committee that the procedure was anachronistic. There was no reason why the representative of one intergovernmental body should attend the meetings of another intergovernmental body; the expenditure was entirely unnecessary.

25. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the representative of India, said that no special allowance had been made for the travel costs resulting from the admission of new members; in any event, the Secretary-General expected that such costs could be absorbed. Savings in travel expenses could be anticipated in 1972 as a result of reductions in airline fares, but the Advisory Committee could not be expected to quantify them.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 82, and A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 26) for an appropriation of \$1,397,700 under section 1 was approved on first reading by 68 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1381)

HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION (A/C.5/1381)

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General had asked for an initial appropriation under section 7 of \$11,240,500 (A/8406). The Advisory Committee, in its report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2), recommended an amount of \$11,175,500, a reduction of \$65,000. Provision for any subsequent proposals concerning buildings and improvements at any location would be included in the revised estimates to be submitted to the Committee later in the session and, subject to the Committee's decisions, would be voted on in second reading.

27. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that it might be helpful, particularly to new members of the Fifth Committee, to review the history of the accommodation problem in New York.

28. In 1963, the Secretary-General had made detailed recommendations to the General Assembly for expansion of the lounge and dining facilities for delegates and additions to the Conference Building at its south end to provide additional cafeteria facilities and some office space, which could have been converted into an additional conference room if necessary in the future. The General Assembly had taken no action on those proposals.

29. In 1966, the Secretary-General had submitted a further report to the General Assembly on accommodation problems at Headquarters, with special emphasis on the increasing shortage of office space. He had suggested that, in the absence of major construction, the only short-term alternative would be the rental of outside office space. At the same time there had developed in the local community an interest in helping the Organization to solve its accommodation problem without construction on the existing site. A Fund for Area Planning and Development Inc., had been established and had undertaken at its own expense to study the feasibility of acquiring and developing for United Nations use a tract of land to the south of the United Nations site and east of First Avenue. Consequently, the Secretary-General had informed the General Assembly that he believed it wise to suspend any plans for the construction of additional premises on the United Nations site, pending the appearance of the study in question.

\* Resumed from the 1441st meeting.

30. In 1968, as a result of the study by the Fund, the Secretary-General had sought and obtained from the General Assembly (resolution 2487 (XXIII)) an allocation of \$250,000 to prepare detailed plans and cost estimates for a major construction project in the area immediately south of the present United Nations site.

31. In 1969, the Secretary-General had submitted to the General Assembly a plan for the expansion of Headquarters facilities for delegates, an additional conference room, a new staff cafeteria, sufficient office space for the Secretariat, UNDP and UNICEF through 1979, and additional areas for storage and documents reproduction, which was urgently needed. The plan had been approved by the General Assembly (resolution 2618 (XXIV)), on the understanding that arrangements could be worked out to permit its financing. The plan involved contributions by the City of New York, the Federal Government of the United States, UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations itself.

32. As explained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1381), it had not proved possible to complete the financial arrangements because the contribution from the United States Government had not been forthcoming, and consequently the Secretary-General had not been able to take further action.

33. Until five weeks previously, the Secretary-General had every hope that the necessary financing for the plan approved by the General Assembly would be forthcoming, and he had therefore not had time in the interval to formulate definite alternative proposals. The plan referred to had been developed over a period of eight years, and it represented a well-considered programme to provide facilities for delegates, additional office space, and space for technical facilities. The project had been discussed in detail in the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee and should not, therefore, be lightly dismissed.

34. The first possibility, in the changed circumstances, was to consider alternative means of financing the expansion of Headquarters in accordance with the existing approved plans. That could involve carrying out either the whole project or parts of it. Another possibility was additional construction on the United Nations site in order to remedy the office space shortage; that would involve reverting to the tentative project discussed in 1963 for the construction of a building on the north end of the present United Nations property. The problem of financing such a new building would, of course, have to be considered.

35. If there was no new construction, the Secretary-General could foresee the obvious necessity of continued rentals of outside premises or the transfer to other locations of a substantial part of the Secretariat and associated organizations, including UNDP and UNICEF. At present, rented quarters were occupied by 490 Secretariat staff, 550 UNDP staff and 245 UNICEF staff at a total cost of about \$2.2 million a year. That included over 55,000 square feet of warehouse space occupied by the United Nations. Through an editorial error, it would appear from the budget estimates for 1972 that \$68,700 had been provided for additional outside rentals in 1972; in fact, that sum was needed to pay in 1972 for the increased cost of maintaining the existing rented premises, and there was no provision for any additional rented space for 1972. The Secretary-

General wished to emphasize that any additions in staff or other activities such as expanded training programmes requiring additional facilities would involve additional outside rentals.

36. Another problem was additional seating facilities in the conference rooms and the General Assembly Hall. The Secretary-General would shortly be submitting to the Fifth Committee a report on the need for further expansion of seating facilities, in view of the possibility of additions to the membership of the Organization.

37. With respect to the General Assembly's request, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 2618 (XXIV), that the Secretary-General should study the possibility and desirability of relocating all or part of certain units of the United Nations and should consider, in choosing potential locations, those other than already established major United Nations centres, the Secretary-General had directed the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to study the matter. However, in view of its complexity, the report could not be available before 1972.

38. The Secretary-General was satisfied that the plan proposed in 1969 was that best suited to the needs of the Organization. Recent developments had left no alternative but to continue the present *ad hoc* arrangements and, while the Secretary-General appreciated the desirability of presenting positive solutions, he believed that, to do so, it was important to obtain an expression of views from the Member States.

39. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that he had expected some more positive proposals from the Secretary-General. It was highly regrettable that the report referred to by the Assistant Secretary-General would not be available until 1972, or much later than the date originally contemplated. It should have been ready for the current session. In the absence of that report, he did not see how Member States could suggest other alternatives, as proposed in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report. He asked to what extent the costly new premises of the Palais des Nations would help to solve the difficulties and how the Secretary-General proposed to make the best use of them, in terms of holding conferences in Geneva or transferring some offices there. The Secretary-General might also indicate the cost of rented accommodation in the various cities where United Nations offices already existed.

40. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) noted that apparently the Secretary-General had not undertaken the study of the optimum distribution of Secretariat functions between various locations which he had been requested, in General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV), paragraph 3, to submit at the twenty-sixth session. Pending submission of that report, his delegation would react negatively to the expensive solution of renting accommodation which, according to paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report, was now costing \$1,878,260 per year. If that went on for 20 years it would total some \$40 million, with no equity in the property. It would further aggravate the financial problem, and would only postpone the problem of accommodation for the Secretariat and for delegations.

41. Consequently, during the debate on the supplementary estimates for 1971, many delegations had opposed the

proposal that the \$2 million appropriated for the extension of United Nations Headquarters should be offset against the supplementary estimates of about \$3 million until the General Assembly had pronounced itself on the future of the extension project.

42. As to the extension to the Palais des Nations, the original amount of \$22 million approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2488 (XXIII) had now risen to \$27.5 million, and following the revaluation of the Swiss franc the cost might rise even further. The Advisory Committee had asked the Secretary-General (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 162) to submit to the General Assembly at the current session detailed information on the reasons for the delays in the project and the rise in costs, and as to how he proposed that further delays and cost inflation in that project should be avoided. Ghana endorsed that recommendation and was awaiting the report.

43. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said he was pleased that the extension project had fallen through because, as he had explained on various occasions, Iraq did not regard New York City as a suitable location for the United Nations. Indeed, recent events had shown how unsuitable it was. He would ask the Assistant Secretary-General whether the United States Government had made any further specific offer concerning its proposed contribution of \$20 million to the extension project, and he also wished to know how much had been spent on designs for the project.

44. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) asked what consultations there had been between the Secretary-General, UNDP AND UNICEF concerning alternative solutions, and what the results of such consultations had been. He also asked whether the plans now abandoned included not only the provision of additional space, but also the modifications of existing accommodation that the Assistant Secretary-General had referred to.

45. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said his delegation had voted against General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) in the belief that further construction in New York was unjustified because the city could not provide the necessary conditions for the proper functioning of the permanent missions of Member States to the United Nations. Although in that resolution, the Assembly had urged the United States to examine the adverse conditions and to consider taking measures to remedy them, no real action had been forthcoming. Conditions had deteriorated further, as evidenced, in particular, by the recent shooting at the building which housed his own Permanent Mission, as well as by further increases in the cost of living which represented a burden both to the budget of the Organization and to that of every mission. In those circumstances, it was certainly unjustifiable to expand the Headquarters in New York, particularly in view of the present financial crisis.

46. As to the \$2 million that would no longer be required in 1971, he thought it would be reasonable to use it in 1972 for construction elsewhere and thus reduce the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General under section 7.

47. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said it was difficult for the Fifth Committee to take any decision on the basis

of the information before it. The question of accommodation at Headquarters had broad implications involving the size of the Secretariat, the budget of the Organization, and so forth. He had expected that at the current session the Fifth Committee would have before it a list of alternative ways of alleviating the acute shortage of space and suggestions as to what the General Assembly should do next—for instance, whether it should take no action once the extension project had fallen through, thus continuing the *ad hoc* arrangements, or whether it should contemplate limited proposals for the accommodation of new Member States. The meagre report by the Secretary-General could not be regarded as satisfactory. Normally the documents supplied by the Secretariat were most useful, but in the present case the Committee, instead of securing the critical analysis it needed, had been given a two-page report that was not even entirely accurate. For example, paragraph 3 referred to “the contribution of \$20 million which it had been hoped would be received from the United States of America”. Since the United States had indicated its willingness to contribute, it would have been more accurate to refer to the contribution as having been “expected”. Paragraph 5 suggested that Member States should have the opportunity of considering the existing situation and suggesting alternative arrangements.

48. In 1969, the Secretary-General had submitted to the Committee a comprehensive plan involving \$80 million, with designs and architectural mock-ups. Now the Fifth Committee was supposed to provide alternatives *in vacuo*. Any constructive debate leading to objective conclusions must be based on precise information about the various possible alternatives. There was a choice between doing nothing—which meant continuing the existing *ad hoc* arrangements—exploring the various possibilities of limited construction, and going ahead with the 1969 extension plan. Before choosing a given course, the Fifth Committee must have the necessary information. The Advisory Committee had recommended (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 161) that the Secretary-General should report to the General Assembly on the matter at its twenty-sixth session and make proposals. No proposals had been made, and he felt the Fifth Committee should have them.

49. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that, like the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he would be interested to know whether the Secretary-General had asked UNDP and UNICEF how they proposed to solve the problem posed by the demise of the extension project, and what their reply had been.

50. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) associated himself with those who had suggested that further discussion of the matter should be postponed until a later date. He agreed with the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services that the project had been a well-considered one which should not be dismissed lightly. However, to attempt to modify it on the basis of the information available to the Committee would be tantamount to dismissing it lightly. Not enough was known about the possible alternatives adumbrated by the Assistant Secretary-General. Since the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) were still in force, the Committee could presumably do nothing more than decide to postpone implementing them, but it must have more material on which to base its consideration of the project.



51. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that he shared the general concern of Members of the Committee. In particular, he endorsed the comments of the Brazilian and Norwegian representatives and would be interested to hear the Secretariat's answers to the very pertinent questions put by the representatives of France and the United Republic of Tanzania.

52. Mr. GUPTA (India) endorsed the comments of previous speakers concerning the paucity of documentation. It was a matter for regret that it had not been possible to go through with the plan approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2618 (XXIV). It appeared that it might be possible to continue the project at some future date. If that was so, perhaps the United States representative, whose delegation had played an active role in promoting that project, would indicate what were the possibilities of the project's getting under way within the next year.

53. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) endorsed the comments of the representatives of Brazil and the United Republic of Tanzania. It would be interesting to learn from the United States delegation whether the decision of the Congress was final and irrevocable, or whether the required amount would be appropriated later. It would also be interesting to learn what had become of New York City's contribution of \$20 million.

54. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to the questions raised by the representative of Iraq, said that the United States delegation had made no further representations to the Secretary-General than those mentioned in his report (A/C.5/1381). Some \$250,000 had been spent on designs and in preparing cost estimates for the extension project.

55. As to the questions raised by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, UNDP and UNICEF had not, so far as he was aware, been requested to suggest alternative courses of action. The Secretary-General had felt that the Fifth Committee should first consider the matter and provide the Secretariat with some guidance. The project had been approved by the General Assembly, but the question of its financing had to be settled before construction work could begin. The Secretary-General had been unable to inform the Advisory Committee that the question of financing had been settled because the host country had been unable to make the needed contribution. Where the remodelling of existing space was concerned, a breakdown of the cost of the various parts of the project had been given in document A/C.5/1246 and Add.1,<sup>2</sup> but if there was no financing for the project as a whole there would be none for its various parts.

56. Since contributions from all other sources were contingent on that of the host country, the \$20 million from New York City, to which the representative of Pakistan had referred, would presumably revert to the City unless a contribution from the United States Government was forthcoming.

57. With regard to the comments of the representative of Brazil, he had said in his introductory statement that the

Secretary-General had been unable, for lack of time, to make specific proposals, that he (the Secretary-General) had hoped that the Fifth Committee would assess prospects for maintaining the project, in whole or in part, and suggest ways and means for its financing, that if there was any increase in staff the Secretariat would be obliged to rent additional premises outside the Headquarters building, and that the proposal to erect a new building at the north end of the Headquarters site could be reactivated. As to the distribution of Secretariat functions between different locations, reference to document A/C.5/1372 would show that the study called for in General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV), paragraph 3, would not be completed until the twenty-seventh session.

58. Referring to the question raised by the representative of France, he said that the Secretariat would shortly be issuing a report making it clear that completion of the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva would not necessarily solve all the problems involved. It would be unwise to hope that upon completion of that building it would be possible to move sufficient staff from New York to Geneva to provide all the additional space that was required in New York.

59. In making *ad hoc* arrangements for additional space, the Secretariat had always tried to obtain as much of the space as it needed in a single building; that had not been possible, and the Secretariat was now dispersed in five buildings.

60. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation reserved the right to make a detailed statement on the question at a later stage. At present it would only comment on some points raised in the debate.

61. The representative of Brazil had said that it would have been more accurate in document A/C.5/1381, paragraph 3, to use the word "expected" instead of "hoped". The factual situation was that at the twenty-fourth session the United States delegation had informed the Committee that the President of the United States would request the Congress to appropriate the sum of \$20 million towards the cost of the project. The President had done so, and the Congress had enacted the authorizing legislation. At its current session, however, the Congress had decided not to make the corresponding appropriation.

62. It would be appreciated that he could not possibly give an authoritative answer to the question raised by the representatives of India and Pakistan, namely, whether the decision of the Congress was final or was subject to modification or reversal.

63. Mr. GUPTA (India) explained that he was interested in discovering whether, in view of the enthusiasm for the project displayed by the United States delegation at the twenty-fourth session, the United States Government proposed to submit the matter to Congress again.

64. The situation with respect to the Secretariat's reports on the question was disturbing. It was because the report on space requirements submitted at the twenty-fourth session (A/C.5/1263) had been unsatisfactory that the General Assembly had included the wording of paragraph 3

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 74.

in its resolution 2618 (XXIV). The study requested in that paragraph had nothing to do with the extension project in New York and it was difficult to understand why, if the subject-matter was as complex as the Secretariat claimed, two years had been allowed to elapse before work on the study had been started.

65. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said he appreciated that the events which had dashed the Organization's hopes were so recent that it had not been possible for the Secretary-General to work out comprehensive alternative proposals. It would be interesting, however, to know whether the Secretary-General considered that execution of the original project should merely be postponed or whether he regarded the original project as impracticable or even undesirable. If the latter, the Committee would have to decide on an alternative course of action and must have data on which to base its decision.

66. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the United States representative's statement confirmed his opinion that in document A/C.5/1381 the word "expected" should have been used instead of "hoped". It would be interesting to know how much time the Secretariat would require to prepare more detailed information on alternatives to the plan and on retention of the plan itself.

67. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that, as he had already explained, the Secretary-General had made provision, in his 1969 extension plan, for all foreseeable facilities that would be required at Headquarters up to the end of 1979. The Secretary-General had not made any mistake in computing his figures. The problem lay in the financing of the project. If it could not be financed, consideration would have to be given to other courses of action. One such course would be to reactivate plans to erect a building at the north end of the Headquarters site. It must be understood, however, that funds would also be required for that course of action. Alternatively, additional space outside Headquarters could be rented. What was certain was that, with the increase in the Organization's membership, immediate steps would have to be taken to acquire additional space on either a permanent or an *ad hoc* basis.

68. Mr. NAUDY (France) said he appreciated that completion of the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva would not provide a complete solution to the problem, but he would like to know to what extent it would contribute towards a solution. He hoped that the information he required would be supplied in the special report on the subject to be submitted to the Committee.

69. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation had always felt that the allocation of funds for the Headquarters extension project was unjustified. Its opinion was based on the fact that conditions in New York, where the permanent missions were required to function, deteriorated from year to year. In addition, it felt that the existing building should be used more rationally.

70. In the main, the references to General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) had been confined to paragraph 1, under which the Secretary-General was authorized to

proceed with the execution of the project. Attention should also be paid, however, to other paragraphs of the resolution. According to the eighth preambular paragraph, for example, the United States Government had given assurances that it would immediately seek accession to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations; it would be interesting to know what progress had been made in that matter. Similarly, the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 did not appear to have been implemented. It would seem, therefore, that the provisions of the resolution—which the Soviet Union had opposed—were not viable. In addition, difficulties concerning financing had arisen, so that it had been impossible to start work on the project. Those developments were not a source of regret to his delegation. On the contrary, by preventing the expenditure of funds on the Headquarters extension project, they would serve to alleviate the financial difficulties facing the Organization. Of course, \$250,000 had already been spent on unnecessary designs, but it was satisfactory to learn from document A/C.5/1381, paragraph 5, that the \$1 million requested in the initial estimates for 1972 would not be pressed for appropriation. As to the \$2 million appropriated in 1971, it would seem that the Committee had no alternative but to transfer that sum to construction work in other localities, such as Santiago, Chile, and Geneva. That would be much better than freezing the money, particularly if account was taken of continuing inflation and the devaluation of the United States dollar. It was not surprising that the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services had had difficulty in replying to the Norwegian representative's questions concerning the Secretary-General's opinion of the project. The Secretary-General had taken account of realities, and the Committee should do likewise. The original project could not be executed; it should be abandoned and the funds saved should be allocated to construction projects in other localities.

71. The increase in the cost of the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva was a source of concern to his delegation, which had always favoured that project. It was with particular satisfaction, therefore, that the Soviet Union had noted the requests made in paragraph 162 of the Advisory Committee's first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2).

72. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that the United States Government had acceded to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations in April 1970. The Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations, of which the USSR was a member, had been informed of that fact.

73. He would not comment on the steps taken to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV), paragraph 6, because an item relating to the status of the work of the Informal Joint Committee was before the Sixth Committee. The USSR representative should be fully aware of what had been done, however, because a full report on the matter had been given to the Informal Joint Committee.

74. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the question raised by the representative of France, said that a report on the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva had been

prepared; it would be submitted to the Advisory Committee during the following week and then to the Fifth Committee. In the meantime, he could say that the new offices would be ready for full occupancy by about mid-1972. One and a half floors had been held in reserve; the rest of the space would be occupied by staff brought in from rented premises in Geneva.

75. Document A/C.5/1381 was admittedly brief, but brief reports were now popular. It dealt with a single project, namely, the Headquarters construction project and its financing, and said everything that needed to be said. The financial package had not been put together and he would venture to say that, in his judgement, it would never be put together. The simple issue, therefore, was to determine what the Committee wished to be done with the \$2 million appropriated in 1971 and the \$1 million proposed in the initial estimates for 1972.

76. In reply to the question raised by the representative of Colombia, he said that UNDP and UNICEF had been fully informed of the financial situation in respect of the project. They had no alternative but to maintain existing arrangements for the time being. What they did in the future would depend on the decisions of their governing bodies.

77. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) asked why the item relating to the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations was before the Sixth Committee and not the Fifth.

78. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that he assumed it was because the report dealt with legal questions.

79. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the statement made by the United States representative, said that, as a member of the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations, his delegation was aware that the United States had acceded to the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. He had put his question because, as events had proved, the accession had not resulted in any change in the situation of the diplomatic corps in New York.

80. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay), observing that \$2 million appropriated in 1971 remained unspent, suggested that the question of the supplementary estimates for 1971 should be settled before the Committee took any decision on the Headquarters construction project.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(for the documentation, see the 1443rd meeting)

First reading (*continued*) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and  
Corr.1)

SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (*continued*) (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1381)

HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION (*continued*)  
(A/C.5/1381)

1. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) regretted that, at the current session, the Secretary-General had not submitted a full report to the Committee on the question of construction work at Headquarters. In the absence of detailed information and specific proposals, the Committee would have to wait until the following session to take a decision on the question, including the matter of the utilization of the \$2 million appropriation under section 7 of the 1971 budget. He, for one, would prefer to see action proceed on General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV), since the construction of new premises at Headquarters seemed to him the most economical solution. The Committee should give the host Government an opportunity to reconsider its decision, making it clear, however, that in the event of negative response it would examine the possibility of constructing new premises outside New York. Member States should be asked to make concrete proposals on the subject, which the Committee would examine at its next session in the light of the report to be submitted to it by the Secretary-General. The Committee should reserve judgement on the \$2 million so that it could decide later whether to use that money to finance the Headquarters project—if that project was launched—or to offset the financial deficit.

2. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) stated that General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) authorized the Secretary-General to do everything in his power to obtain contributions from other sources. He would like to know what efforts had been made in that direction and what had been achieved. He agreed with the representative of Kenya that the United States Government should be given time to reconsider its decision, if it wished to do so. Further, the Secretary-General should make recommendations on action to make the work of the Secretariat more efficient in order to reduce administrative expenditure at Headquarters.

3. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation regretted that the Headquarters expansion project had not materialized. In 1969, it had promised the Fifth Committee that the United States Government would make every effort to participate in the financing of the project. The United States Congress had authorized but not appropriated the funds, since some members had felt that the Federal Government and the government of the State of New York would be bearing too great a share of the funding. The situation appeared unlikely to change in the immediate future. He therefore thought it advisable to abandon, for the time being, any plans for construction at Headquarters and to use the \$2 million appropriation in the 1971 budget to pay for over-runs of expenditure. The present financial situation also made it logical to delete the provisions for construction work at New York and Santiago, Chile, from the 1972 budget estimates.

4. Regarding the recent decision taken by the United States Senate, he was of the opinion that in the long-run it would not affect in any way his country's formal commitments to the United Nations and his Government would continue to discharge its financial obligations as it had done in the past.

5. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) recalled that, during the general discussion, his delegation had urged that highest priority should go to programmes benefiting the developing countries, including UNDP programmes. That would mean postponing, but not cancelling, the execution of unessential projects. The list of priorities should include the programmes of the regional economic commissions, which played a vital part in the economic and social field and whose activities were essential for the proper functioning of the United Nations. Those commissions, to which his country attached the greatest importance, provided direct technical assistance to the developing countries and must for that reason receive the highest priority. That showed the importance of the construction work planned for Santiago, Chile, Bangkok and Addis Ababa. The Committee should therefore postpone the work provided for in chapters I and II and in chapters VI and VII of section 7 concerning construction and maintenance at New York and Geneva and carry out the work provided for in chapters III, IV and V concerning construction at Santiago, Bangkok and Addis Ababa. The \$2 million appropriation that had not been used in 1971 for construction work in New York should be transferred to chapters III, IV and V, as the representative of the Soviet Union had suggested at the previous meeting. If the Soviet delegation did not take the initiative itself, his delegation would submit a formal proposal to that effect.

6. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) recalled that during the general discussion his delegation had advocated decentrali-

zation through the transfer of certain organizational units to other countries like Switzerland or Austria or to certain third-world countries. He believed that the possibility of constructing additional premises should be viewed within the general context of the evolution of the United Nations in the 20 years ahead and proposed in that connexion the setting up of an intergovernmental group to assist the Secretary-General in examining the possibility of expanding United Nations facilities outside New York. Construction costs, operating expenses and the cost of living were much higher at New York than elsewhere and, consequently, conducting the Organization's activities outside New York might enable it to make considerable savings, which could be used for purposes more useful to the Member States. Until that problem was solved, consideration should be given on a short-term basis to the possibility of transferring certain units, for example, units in the economic and social field, elsewhere, which would bring them closer to most of the developing countries. The two solutions proposed by the representative of the Secretary-General at the Committee's 1443rd meeting were unacceptable and his delegation hoped that a more substantial report, containing more positive proposals, would be submitted to the Committee. The suggestions made by certain delegations that the New York construction project should be abandoned and the possibility of building elsewhere explored should be taken into consideration.

7. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that many speakers had shared his delegation's disappointment at the failure to attain the objective defined in resolution 2618 (XXIV). While recognizing the constitutional difficulties that sometimes faced Governments when they tried to keep their promises, he saw no point in exerting pressure on the General Assembly to take a decision for which it was evident that there was just as little enthusiasm on one side as on the other. The situation being what it was, he regretted that the Secretary-General had not indicated in his report (A/C.5/1381) alternative methods for solving the accommodation problem at Headquarters. In his view the Administration, not the Member States, should be responsible for making proposals in that matter. Whatever suggestions were put forward, the General Assembly should decide against the construction of new premises at New York. He opposed the idea of reviving the plan to construct at the northern end of the present building, since it was both aesthetically and politically unacceptable, and recalled that the decision to construct in New York had been strongly opposed by a large number of delegations and that the reasons for that opposition remained valid. The suggestion to rent a building to accommodate other sections of the United Nations and those of UNDP and UNICEF which could not be accommodated in the present building he also found unacceptable because of the high rentals in New York. No more plans should be made to build or rent in New York. Efforts should be made to find less expensive alternatives in other parts of the world. The present situation therefore made it more urgent for the Secretariat to implement operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of resolution 2618 (XXIV) and to review seriously its personnel management policy in order to ensure that resources already available and additional resources were utilized to the full. The idea of common premises should also be explored with greater vigour, since accommodation was a problem common to all organizations in the United Nations

system. While that idea did not so far appear to have aroused much enthusiasm, many of the existing difficulties were not insurmountable. Although the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 59 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972, agreed that the Secretary-General should proceed cautiously, it was now imperative that the Secretariat should take the lead in making proposals regarding the means of achieving fresh progress in that field.

8. It would have been much better to discuss together all the problems related to accommodation, namely, construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises for the Committee would thus have had a clearer picture of the magnitude of the accommodation problems of the Organization. The part which Governments played in assisting the United Nations system in that problem would also have been corroborated. The arrangements envisaged in resolution 2618 (XXIV), though generous, were not unique. In fact, paragraph 57 of the Advisory Committee's first report indicated that, in 1971, Governments of host countries were paying full rentals for information centres—two more than in 1970–83 UNDP field offices—an increase of eight—and 11 UNICEF field offices—another increase of eight. In Africa alone, in addition to the help given by the Ethiopian Government in the current construction at Addis Ababa, free accommodation was provided to various United Nations organizations in Lagos, Kinshasa, Dar-es-Salaam, Yaoundé, Nairobi, Accra, Kampala, Bangui and Ouagadougou. The size of the aid provided made the disappointment of Committee members at the failure to realize the plan to construct at Headquarters more understandable.

9. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that there were two separate questions facing the Committee. On the one hand, it must decide what steps to take if the plan to build in New York was abandoned and if General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) could not therefore be implemented. It had been pointed out that the Committee could not decide on that question until it had examined the problems in detail and that it could not do so until the Secretariat provided the necessary information. The other question was how to use the unspent \$2 million appropriated for the proposed construction.

10. If the Committee decided to postpone consideration of the question of premises, he wondered whether it would have any impact on the budget estimates for 1972 and whether the Secretary-General would take it into account in submitting revised estimates. He also wondered whether the Secretary-General had considered the possibility of relocating certain units of the Secretariat to another city, Geneva for example.

11. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay) recalled that the Committee had decided not to take any decision on the supplementary estimates for 1971 before studying the question of accommodation and building at Headquarters. The representative of the United States had at the current meeting confirmed that his Government would not be able to pay its \$20 million contribution in 1972 for construction of new premises at Headquarters. The Committee should now vote on whether, as a result, it should defer

consideration of chapter I of section 7 as far as the New York Headquarters were concerned.

12. Mr. RADLEY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the comments made by the delegations of Colombia and the United Republic of Tanzania on the accommodation needs at Headquarters. However, the immediate issue was to deal with the 1971 supplementary estimates. His delegation had also been disappointed that it would not be possible to proceed with the construction plans. However, in view of the Organization's financial position it would not be wise to proceed with major construction projects either in New York or elsewhere. Moreover, there had been many suggestions for containment of staff which would have an impact on accommodation requirements. His delegation supported the view put forward by the United States delegation that no provision should be included in section 7 for the major building works in New York, and that the proposals for new building initiatives elsewhere should also be reconsidered in view of the gravity of the financial situation.

13. The \$2 million provided in the 1971 budget should be used to offset the additional expenditures incurred that year. Any alternative course of action would be irresponsible.

14. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the real question was the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV), which had nothing to do with the supplementary estimates. Only if the Committee decided to write the resolution off the books would it have to wonder how to use the \$2 million. If that happened, his delegation would be opposed to using the funds to offset over-expenditures during the financial year 1971; it would agree to the money's being used to finance other building plans under section 7 of the 1972 budget estimates.

15. His delegation was concerned to see that some delegations tied the question of space and construction to that of staff. The fact that the plans to construct at Headquarters could not be implemented in no way justified reductions in staff.

16. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba) said that the Committee should face up to the fact that a General Assembly resolution could not be implemented and should determine what to recommend to the General Assembly in that connexion. In 1969, his delegation had categorically opposed the adoption of resolution 2618 (XXIV) pointing out that there were other more economical ways of solving the accommodation problem, in particular, by using the possibilities of expansion in European cities where some United Nations organizations had their headquarters.

17. If the circumstances that had led the Secretariat to request that new buildings be constructed had not changed, he doubted it was wise to postpone again the work of construction. There might be other ways of solving the accommodation problem, for example by using vacant premises in Geneva. In the present situation, it would be unreasonable to commit oneself to build in New York. The General Assembly should consider the possibility of relocating Headquarters to another city, or at least making greater use of the space available to units in other cities.

18. The General Assembly must reconsider the decision it had taken at its twenty-fourth session. The Fifth Committee should submit a draft resolution recommending that the General Assembly should note that its resolution 2618 (XXIV) could not be implemented.

19. Mr. NAUDY (France) recalled that his delegation felt that the \$2 million appropriated should be used to reduce the supplementary estimates for 1971.

20. His delegation requested that the reports which had to be submitted to the Committee under paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 2618 (XXIV) be submitted as soon as possible. As other delegations had pointed out earlier, Committee members would not be in a position to make the proposals expected of them so long as they did not have a minimum of information.

21. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) expressed surprise that the discussion of resolution 2618 (XXIV) should be reopened, since the main aspects of the problem—the percentage of the United States contribution and the financial situation of the Organization—had been well known at the time the resolution was adopted.

22. He was concerned at the suggestions to freeze the staff, because that would have a highly adverse effect on the Organization's activities.

23. The attempt to implement resolution 2618 (XXIV) should not be lightly abandoned; the Fifth Committee should not dispose of the \$2 million before the General Assembly had taken a decision on the resolution's implementation.

24. Mr. KABORE (Upper Volta) agreed with the French delegation that the \$2 million should be spent to offset over-expenditures during the financial year 1971.

25. The Committee would have to try to find a solution to the problem of accommodation at Headquarters. A degree of decentralization might be considered to make it possible to establish certain United Nations units in a more favourable setting and at the same time cut down on costs.

26. His delegation's position, he recalled, was that if section 7 was put to the vote as a whole, his delegation would abstain in the vote.

27. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) recalled that in his statement to the Fifth Committee at the 1443rd meeting, the Secretary-General's representative had confirmed that the Secretary-General was in favour of maintaining the plans for construction at Headquarters which the General Assembly had approved and which, for financial reasons, could not be realized at the present time; in the current circumstances it had not been possible to complete the financial arrangements. The Controller had stated at the same meeting that there was no possibility of reaching agreement on a financial package. He wondered whether the Controller's statement had not been too hasty, for, although the United States representative had said that no appropriations had been made for the construction plan in the United States Federal budget for 1972, he had not said that the situation might not change at some future date.

The statements of the Secretary-General's representative and the Controller did not seem reconcilable and, if the Secretary-General was in favour of maintaining the Headquarters construction plan, the Committee should seek workable solutions instead of merely proposing that the \$2 million appropriated under section 7 for 1971 be used to offset certain items of expenditure in the supplementary estimates. The construction plan could be retained but its execution delayed or other means of financing the project might be sought, or it might be executed in stages over a longer period. If none of those possibilities was acceptable, more modest construction plans might be drawn up but at all events the plan should not be abandoned lightly and every possibility should be explored.

28. In the present circumstances the \$2 million appropriated under section 7 should be kept for later use and it would be inappropriate and unwise to allocate it for other purposes. If no decision was taken, space would continue to be rented at very high cost; expenditure for rent currently amounted to \$2.2 million and it was unlikely to go down. Recalling paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at the twenty-fourth session on the question of Headquarters office space,<sup>1</sup> he observed that the cost of renting space for UNDP and UNICEF had been estimated at \$900,000 in 1970 and that \$1,055,800 had been requested under the 1970 budget for rental of outside space to accommodate United Nations Secretariat staff. On paragraph 25 of the same report, the Secretary-General had referred to the need for reassembling, on an adequately equipped Headquarters site, increasingly dispersed Secretariat operations and activities in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. It would appear that those remarks still applied.

29. In 1969, the Committee had been presented with various reports totalling 92 pages, supporting the proposals for building accommodation at Headquarters. In 1971, only one report of two pages had been submitted and the Committee had heard only one oral report on the question. It seemed that an attempt was being made to have the plans dropped without sufficient consideration.

30. Referring to the statement of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that a number of delegations was opposed to the construction of premises at Headquarters, he said that General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) had been adopted by 95 votes to 14, with 10 abstentions. Some delegations were demanding that paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the resolution should be applied. However, it should be remembered that those paragraphs were only inserted in the text of the draft resolution for the sake of compromise, following discussions with the delegations which were entirely opposed to it. Now it had been suggested that only those paragraphs should be considered, and that the remainder of the resolution should be ignored.

31. The use of the allocation of \$2 million in section 7 in order to meet overexpenditure in other sections of the 1971 budget, as suggested by the United States representative, would not help to solve the organization's financial difficulties in a satisfactory way. The proposal of the

United States representative that the Secretariat staff should be maintained at its present level, that no new activities should be undertaken and that the problem of premises should be solved by continuing to pay high rents, did not seem constructive and would be detrimental to the activities of the United Nations.

32. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) wished to clarify some of the points raised by the representative of Norway. In 1969, when resolution 2618 (XXIV) had been adopted by the General Assembly, the United States Federal Government had obtained authorization from the United States Congress to participate in financing the project. However, the Congress had not followed up on its decision and appropriated the necessary funds. Therefore, it was impossible for the United States Government to participate at present in financing the project. Two months previously, Mr. Bush, head of the United States delegation, had promised in a letter to the Secretary-General that the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations would do all in its power to assist the Organization to solve the problem of renting premises. The United States delegation considered that the \$2 million allocated in the budget for the financial year 1971 for proposed building at Headquarters should be used to offset over-expenditure in 1971 and that allocations requested for construction work in New York and Santiago, Chile, should be deleted from the 1972 budget. The United States representative emphasized that Congress was independent, and that the policies which it adopted were neither those of the United States delegation to the United Nations, nor those of the President.

33. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) welcomed the manner in which the Committee had approached the discussion of the question and wished to restate the views of his delegation.

34. Some delegations found it expedient to request the United States Government to reconsider the construction plan at Headquarters. The Soviet delegation did not support that request; neither did it support the various proposals of the Norwegian representative for the retention of that plan.

35. As for the proposal to set aside the allocation of \$2 million for the purpose of renting premises which would be grouped in a single building, the Soviet delegation saw no connexion between the two questions. Only the Secretary-General was empowered to make the necessary arrangements if he considered that all premises should be regrouped. At the moment, it was advisable to cancel the construction plan at New York, as the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and Cuba had suggested. The Soviet delegation supported the proposal of the Cuban delegation that the General Assembly should be recommended to conclude that it was not possible to implement resolution 2618 (XXIV).

36. However, such a decision would leave in abeyance the fundamental question of transferring some Secretariat services. In that connexion, he found constructive the proposal of the representative of Upper Volta that decentralization should be increased, which would allow economies to be made. He also supported the observations of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania who

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 74, document A/C.5/1246.

had requested that the Secretary-General should consider the possibility of building elsewhere than at Headquarters and should present his views on the subject. His delegation also regarded as reasonable the statement of the United States representative, which aimed to solve the problem of building premises at Headquarters by stopping the recruitment of new personnel and reducing the number of consultants called upon. It did not think that such action would be detrimental to the activities of the Organization, as claimed by the representative of Norway. The solution must be found by improving the efficiency of the Secretariat.

37. For the use of the \$2 million allocated in the 1971 budget for the construction of a building at Headquarters, four suggestions had been formulated. The Advisory Committee had proposed to use the allocation in order to offset additional expenditure in 1971. He had no objection to that solution, except that it was in opposition to his delegation's position of principle that the Secretary-General should not submit supplementary estimates. The proposals of the Norwegian representative would lead to a waste of money. The proposal to credit the sum to Member States might have been acceptable to the Soviet delegation, but it did not seem logical to remove that item from the budget only to make further allocations later for the construction of other premises. On the other hand, the suggestion of the representative of Colombia that the allocation in question

should be transferred to other construction projects which had already been approved, and that allocations requested for construction projects in 1972 should be reduced by \$2 million, could be acceptable for most delegations.

38. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said, in reply to the Norwegian representative, that he wished to clarify his previous statement. In 1969, at the time of the adoption of resolution 2618 (XXIV), there had been initial strong opposition to the idea of constructing a new building at Headquarters. Resolution 2618 (XXIV) had been submitted to the General Assembly after an exchange of views between the two groups during which the arguments put forward by the supporters of the resolution in favour of the financial advantages involved had gained general acceptance. In the beginning, however, it had not enjoyed the support of the majority.

39. The CHAIRMAN agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that the debate on the construction plan at Headquarters had been useful, and reminded the Committee that it would be able to decide on the use of the allocation of \$2 million in section 7 of the 1971 budget during the detailed consideration of the supplementary estimates.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*





*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY IN CONNEXION WITH  
THE CATASTROPHE IN INDIA**

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Committee, expressed sympathy to the Government and people of India in connexion with the recent catastrophe in that country.
2. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he would convey the Committee's sympathy to his Government.

**AGENDA ITEM 82**

**Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General (A/8482, A/C.5/1363 and Add.1, A/C.5/1368, A/C.5/1375)**

*Standardization of financial regulations: financial regulations governing external audit (A/8482, A/C.5/1375)*

3. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew the Committee's attention to two changes which would result from the proposed new provisions (see A/C.5/1375, annex). The first related to the scope of the audit. Under financial regulation 12.2 of the United Nations, the Board of Auditors consulted the Advisory Committee relative to the scope of the several audits to be made by the Board. It had been explained to the Advisory Committee that that provision had been deleted from the proposed text in order to ensure the independence of the External Auditors in performing the audit. The Advisory Committee had never sought to limit the conduct of the audit in any way and it questioned the need to delete the provision concerned. However, it had not pressed for the restoration of the provision, on the understanding that the External Auditor would not conduct special management audits or other special audits unless specifically authorized to do so.

4. The second change related to the nature of certification by the External Auditors. Under the new formula, the Board of Auditors would express and sign an "opinion" that "the financial statements . . . present fairly the financial position" of the Organization. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the adoption of that proposal. It was concerned, however, at the fact that "the generally accepted common auditing standards", in the words of the new regulation 12.4, had not yet been defined. It, therefore, hoped to be given an assurance that in the meantime the Board of Auditors would continue to apply existing auditing standards.

5. He added that the Advisory Committee had recommended (A/8482, para. 9) a slight drafting change in the proposed regulation 12.11, which should not give rise to any difficulty.

6. Mr. OSMANY (Chairman of the Board of Auditors) said that he welcomed the proposed change concerning the nature of the certification by the External Auditors of the financial statements as a step in the right direction. This change would result in the disregard of unnecessary details of audit work and consequentially, in less auditing costs. He could assure the Committee that, until the Panel of External Auditors had defined the generally accepted common auditing standards, the Board of Auditors would continue to apply the same auditing standards as hitherto.

7. He further informed the Committee that the Panel of External Auditors had considered the question of the issuance of an agreed set of common auditing standards at their meetings on 18-19 October 1971 at Geneva and had decided that a consensus based on the draft standards proposed by several of the Panel members was possible. In consideration of the drafts submitted, the Panel members had said that it was difficult to draw up a common code of the generally accepted standards of audit because of the wide disparity which existed between those practised throughout the world. However, standards of auditing were a professional matter well understood by practitioners; they did not, however, lend themselves readily to "precise definition". At the request of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, the Board of Auditors and the United Nations, the Panel of External Auditors had laid down some guiding principles, including the provision that an External Auditor must primarily comply with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations, which left him a considerable measure of discretion to be exercised conscientiously. He must therefore devise an audit programme comprising tests of sufficient width and depth while taking into account the nature and scale of the organization's expenditure. The External Auditor must also take into consideration the scale and effectiveness of internal controls, including internal audit. In addition to his basic financial audit, the Auditor had a discretion under the Financial Regulations to make observations on matters of administration and management. While complying with the above requests, the External Auditor must keep to a minimum both the direct cost of audit and the demands it made on the staff-time of the organization. Furthermore, the External Auditor must be professionally competent and maintain an impartial and objective attitude of mind. Finally, it was essential to a competent audit that the External Auditor's independence should be respected by the organization. The Auditor in turn should recognize the obligations which his independence imposed on him. These

included the duty of care, economy, competence, and objectivity briefly described above.

8. The Panel of External Auditors was of the view that since the audit requirements of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were special in several respects, the External Auditors would do well to draw on the practical experience of other external auditors and thus establish common auditing practices. He hoped that it would be possible to submit to the United Nations a definition of common auditing standards when the question had been studied in greater depth.

9. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should approve the proposed standard provisions for financial regulations relating to external audit and additional terms of reference (A/C.5/1375, annex), subject to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as set forth in paragraphs 5, 7, 8 and 9 of its report (A/8482).

*The proposed standard provisions were adopted by 72 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since the Committee had approved the standard provisions, the Secretariat should be requested to prepare a suitable draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly.

#### AGENDA ITEM 75

##### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (continued) (A/8458, A/8471, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.7)

11. The CHAIRMAN said that he would give the floor to those representatives who wished to make statements of a general nature on the supplementary estimates for 1971. He reminded members that the Committee must decide whether the 1971 appropriation of \$2 million under section 7 should be surrendered.

12. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that the proposal to set off the \$2 million appropriated under section 7 in 1971 against over-expenditures seemed logical. However, as the Advisory Committee had commented on the supplementary estimates as a whole and not on each separate section, the Fifth Committee had no specific recommendation from the Advisory Committee on section 7. Under the circumstances, his delegation would abstain from voting on section 7.

13. Miss FORCIGNANÓ (Italy) said that her delegation would vote in favour of setting off against 1971 over-expenditures the \$2 million appropriated under section 7; the Organization's financial situation called for swift action, and the \$2 million could be used to offset losses caused by recent fluctuations in exchange rates. Such a course of action would not, however, solve the Headquarters construction problem, on which there should be a separate discussion.

14. Mr. TURNER (Controller) explained that the revised appropriations requested by the Secretary-General under sections 3 and 4 would be reduced by \$150,000 and \$61,100 respectively. The draft resolution on budget

appropriations annexed to the Secretary-General's report on the supplementary estimates (A/8458) should be amended accordingly.

##### *Draft resolution on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8458, annex I)*

15. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the supplementary estimates for 1971 section by section. The Committee would vote only on those sections where the appropriation had been changed.

#### SECTION 1. TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

16. The CHAIRMAN noted that the appropriation under section 1 remained unchanged.

#### SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the revised estimates for section 2 amounted to \$3,545,100, or \$227,300 more than the initial appropriation. The Advisory Committee concurred in that amount.

*An appropriation of \$3,545,100 for section 2 was approved by 74 votes to none.*

#### SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the revised estimates for section 3 amounted to \$86,775,000, or \$616,300 more than the initial appropriation. The Secretary-General had decided that \$150,000 of the reduction in staff costs recommended by the Advisory Committee should be applied to section 3. The revised appropriation would therefore amount to \$86,625,000.

*The revised appropriation of \$86,625,000 for section 3 was approved by 66 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions.*

19. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation had voted against the revised appropriation. The submission of supplementary estimates was justified only in extraordinary circumstances, whereas the Secretariat requested additional funds every year. There was no justification for the additional appropriations requested. Additional expenditures should be offset by savings on the budget as a whole. The \$2 million appropriated under section 7 of the budget for 1971 should not be considered a saving. It should not be used to offset over-expenditures but should be credited to the Member States. However, since, as the representative of the Soviet Union had pointed out at the previous meeting, that solution would be unpractical, his delegation believed that the \$2 million should be carried forward to the 1972 budget and allocated to construction projects elsewhere than in New York.

#### SECTION 4. COMMON STAFF COSTS

20. The CHAIRMAN said that the revised estimates for section 4 amounted to \$19,884,000, an increase of

\$298,700. The Secretary-General had decided that \$61,100 of the reduction in staff costs recommended by the Advisory Committee should be applied to section 4. The revised appropriation would therefore amount to \$19,822,900.

*The revised appropriation of \$19,822,900 for section 4 was approved by 70 votes to 9.*

#### SECTION 5. TRAVEL OF STAFF

21. The CHAIRMAN noted that the revised estimates for section 5 amounted to \$2,748,300, an increase of \$150,000. The Advisory Committee had concurred in that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$2,748,300 for section 5 was approved by 70 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

#### SECTION 6. PAYMENTS UNDER ANNEX I, PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 5, OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS; HOSPITALITY

22. The CHAIRMAN noted that the appropriation for section 6 remained unchanged.

#### SECTION 7. BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PREMISES

23. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on the unexpended amount of \$2 million appropriated under section 7 for the Headquarters construction project. If the Committee decided to surrender the appropriation, the figure for section 7 would have to be revised accordingly.

24. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the unspent \$2 million appropriated under section 7 was not a saving, since the project for which it had been appropriated had not been carried out. The money should be devoted solely to construction, at Headquarters or elsewhere; it should not be used to offset over-expenditures under other sections of the budget. He was therefore categorically opposed to the idea of using the \$2 million to reduce the sum supplementary estimates for 1971 so as not to assess additional contributions upon Member States. He requested a roll-call vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

25. Mr. MAKUFU (Zaire) agreed that the Secretary-General's report on Headquarters accommodation (A/C.5/1381) was inadequate, as the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had said at the previous meeting, because it merely stated the situation without proposing any specific course of action. His delegation was accordingly unable at present to take a position on how the \$2 million should be used, in the absence of a more comprehensive report from the Secretary-General. His delegation hoped that the United States Congress would reverse its decision and that the Headquarters construction project could proceed, for that seemed the best solution. However, as the project now seemed definitely endangered, his delegation felt that, in view of the Organization's current financial crisis, the \$2 million should be used to offset over-expenditures under other sections of the 1971 budget, and it would vote in favour of the Advisory

Committee's proposal. It would state its position on the question of accommodation in due course.

26. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) asked whether the proposal to surrender the \$2 million appropriation meant that it would be used to offset supplementary expenditure in 1971.

27. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that, if the Committee decided to surrender the \$2 million, the revised appropriation under section 7 for 1971 would be reduced from \$8,981,900 to \$6,981,900 and the total amount of expenditure for 1971 would be reduced from \$194,627,800 to \$192,627,800. In that case, there would be no need to ask Member States for additional contributions for the financial year 1971. Otherwise, such a request would have to be made.

28. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said he would vote against the proposal that the \$2 million should be used to offset over-expenditure.

29. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) felt that the \$2 million should be used for construction; he would vote against any proposal to use it for other purposes.

30. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he too would vote against the proposal that the \$2 million should be used to offset additional expenditure under other sections of the budget.

31. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) agreed with the views expressed by the representative of Czechoslovakia and said that he would vote against the Advisory Committee's proposal.

32. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said he, too, would vote against the Advisory Committee's proposal.

33. Mr. RUIZ de GAMBOA (Chile) also expressed opposition to the proposal of the Advisory Committee. The \$2 million should be used for construction in other parts of the world.

34. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that the proposal that the \$2 million should be used to reduce the supplementary estimates in order not to have to request additional contributions from Member States seemed very realistic, and he would vote in favour of it.

35. Mr. N'DIAYE (Senegal), Mr. BROWN (Australia), Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) and Mr. ROSS (Liberia) said that they also agreed with the Advisory Committee's proposal.

36. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) pointed out that, if the \$2 million was carried forward to the financial year 1972 instead of being used to reduce the supplementary estimates for 1971, the budget for 1972 would be reduced by that amount; that would make no difference so far as the contributions requested of Member States were concerned but would have the advantage of adhering to regular budgetary procedure.

37. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said he would vote against the Advisory Committee's proposal because, in his view, the

Fifth Committee should not decide how the \$2 million was to be used until the General Assembly had taken a decision on the question of construction at Headquarters.

38. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay) said that he would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's proposal, which would obviate the need to ask Member States for additional contributions. The fact that the \$2 million appropriation had not been utilized did not entitle the Fifth Committee to allocate it to other construction projects.

39. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) felt that the \$2 million should not be credited against the supplementary estimates, but should be paid into a special fund to finance construction in other parts of the world.

40. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ (Cuba) said that the \$2 million should be used not to reduce the supplementary estimates for 1971 but to reduce the appropriations requested for section 7 for 1972, and in particular to finance construction elsewhere than in New York.

41. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the proposal that the unexpended amount of \$2 million appropriated for the Headquarters construction project under section 7 of the 1971 budget should be surrendered.

*At the request of the representative of India the vote was taken by roll-call.*

*The United Republic of Tanzania, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Fiji, France, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Liberia, Mauritania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

*Against:* United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Barbados, Brazil, Cameroon, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey.

*Abstaining:* Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*The proposal was rejected by 50 votes to 32, with 6 abstentions.*

42. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on section 7 as a whole. The revised estimate for that section was \$8,981,900, or \$59,000 less than the initial appropriation. That amount took into account the decision of the Fifth Committee relating to the disposition of the unspent

appropriation of \$2 million under the section for construction at Headquarters.

*The revised appropriation of \$8,981,900 for section 7 was approved by 49 votes to 12, with 21 abstentions.*

#### SECTION 8. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT

43. The CHAIRMAN noted that the revised estimate for section 8 amounted to \$928,100, or \$34,600 less than the initial appropriation. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$928,100 for section 8 was approved by 86 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND RENTAL OF PREMISES

44. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General had requested a supplementary appropriation of \$309,000 under section 9, which meant that the revised estimate for that section was \$6,627,000. The Advisory Committee concurred in that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$6,627,000 for section 9 was approved by 80 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.*

#### SECTION 10. GENERAL EXPENSES

45. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Secretary-General had requested a supplementary amount of \$635,000 under section 10, thus increasing the appropriation for that section to \$5,984,900. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$5,984,900 for section 10 was approved by 80 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

#### SECTION 11. PRINTING

46. The CHAIRMAN noted that the appropriation under section 11 remained unchanged.

#### SECTION 12. SPECIAL EXPENSES

47. The CHAIRMAN said that a decrease of \$101,400 on the initial appropriation was proposed for section 12 and that the revised estimate therefore amounted to \$10,546,100. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$10,546,100 for section 12 was approved by 77 votes to 12, with 2 abstentions.*

48. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had voted against the appropriation for section 12 because it included certain expenses which his delegation considered unlawful.

PART V. TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES: SECTION 13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY SERVICES; NARCOTIC DRUGS

## CONTROL. SECTION 14. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

49. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Secretary-General had stated that expenditure under part V (sections 13 and 14) would be kept within the appropriation levels, namely, \$5,408,000 for section 13 and \$1,500,000 for section 14, or a total of \$6,908,000 for part V as a whole. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

50. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the Committee should vote on the appropriations for part V as a whole.

*The appropriation of \$6,908,000 for part V was approved by 76 votes to 7, with 3 abstentions.*

## SECTION 15. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

51. The CHAIRMAN said that the revised estimate for section 15 was \$10,330,400, an increase of \$258,100 over the initial appropriation. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$10,330,400 for section 15 was approved by 77 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.*

## SECTION 16. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

52. The CHAIRMAN said that the revised estimate for section 16 was \$12,508,500, an increase of \$286,000 over the initial appropriation. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$12,508,500 for section 16 was approved by 83 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

## SECTION 17. SPECIAL MISSIONS

53. The CHAIRMAN said that no change had been proposed in the initial appropriation for section 17, which amounted to \$8,133,100.

*The appropriation of \$8,133,100 for section 17 was approved by 74 votes to 10, with 4 abstentions.*

54. Mr. GONCHARENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation had voted against section 17 because it included an appropriation for the so-called United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

## SECTION 18. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

55. The CHAIRMAN noted that the revised appropriation proposed by the Secretary-General for section 18 and

agreed to by the Advisory Committee amounted to \$4,781,000, an increase of \$59,000 over the initial appropriation.

*The revised appropriation of \$4,781,000 for section 18 was approved by 79 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

## SECTION 19. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

56. The CHAIRMAN said that the revised appropriation proposed by the Secretary-General for section 19 was \$1,499,100, an increase of \$45,200 over the initial appropriation. The Advisory Committee agreed with that amount.

*The revised appropriation of \$1,499,100 for section 19 was approved by 87 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

57. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on a total appropriation for 1971 of \$194,627,800.

*The Committee approved a total appropriation of \$194,627,800 for 1971 by 65 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions.*

58. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General had submitted, in part B of the draft resolution on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 contained in annex I of document A/8458, revised estimates of income amounting to \$32,255,500 for the financial year 1971. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved those revised estimates.

*It was so decided.*

59. Mr. FRANCIS (Jamaica) said that his delegation had voted in favour of surrendering the appropriation of \$2 million; it had also voted in favour of section 7 as a whole because it supported the other appropriations under that section. However, that should not be construed as support for further construction in New York.

60. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on the supplementary estimates because it considered the submission of supplementary estimates a questionable practice, which was all the more reprehensible when over-expenditures were not offset by savings or transfers between sections and led to an increase in the contributions of Member States.

61. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the supplementary estimates even though additional funds were requested under several sections to finance additional posts. His delegation hoped that the same would not happen in 1972.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-4, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1062, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP/10 and Add.1, E/5038)

*First reading (continued)\* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up, in first reading, the budget estimates under section 3 relating to Salaries and Wages, together with the revised estimates resulting from decisions under the section taken by the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions. In the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406), the Secretary-General had proposed an amount of \$94,338,000 in section 3. In his report (A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) on the revised estimates the Secretary-General had requested an additional appropriation of \$336,650, for a total provision under the section of \$94,674,650. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 136) on the 1972 budget estimates, had recommended a reduction of \$845,300 in the Secretary-General's estimate and the exclusion of a further amount of \$912,500, for a total reduction in the initial estimates of \$1,757,800. With respect to the revised estimates, the Advisory Committee had recommended in its related report (A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1) that an additional appropriation amounting to \$229,000 should be approved for section 3, which would mean a reduction of \$107,650 in the Secretary-General's revised estimate. The grand total recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 3 for 1972 was therefore \$92,809,200.

2. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's comments on section 3 in paragraphs

\* Resumed from the 1444th meeting.

98-136 of its first report should be read in conjunction with its observations in paragraphs 29-43 of its report on 1972 staff requirements. Section 3 accounted for almost half the total budget; the difference between half the total budget and the 75 per cent to which he had referred in his statement at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377) was that the latter included staff provisions in other sections, such as sections 15, 16 and 18, and some of the associated staff costs appearing in section 4.

3. The Secretary-General's initial estimates for 1972 showed an increase of 9.5 per cent over appropriations for 1971. Most of the increase was attributable to salary increases, and the effect of including, on a full-year basis, the increase which had come into effect on 1 July 1971 was shown in paragraph 103 of the Advisory Committee's first report. In addition, there were post adjustments and increases in General Service salaries and Manual Worker wages reflecting higher living costs.

4. Apart from that type of increase, other increases in section 3 were attributable to the fact that the Secretary-General had proposed new posts, basing his proposals almost exclusively on the conclusions of the surveys carried out by the Administrative Management Service. The Advisory Committee had not objected to the proposals. It believed, however, that some of the reclassifications proposed could await the outcome of other Administrative Management Service surveys and had accordingly recommended a reduction of \$53,000 in chapter I.

5. The recommended reduction of \$100,000 in chapter II had been made because the Advisory Committee believed that with better productivity such a reduction could be achieved.

6. With regard to chapter III, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the total estimate of nearly \$4 million should be reduced by \$450,000. In the first place, since it had been informed that the Palais des Nations, Geneva, extension project was running behind schedule, the Advisory Committee was of the opinion that the lump-sum provision for the operation and maintenance of the new wing could be reduced by \$100,000. Secondly, the Committee believed that economies amounting to a further \$100,000 could be achieved through closer control of departmental requests coupled with a determined effort to improve productivity. Thirdly, requests for individual experts and consultants had tended to grow very considerably, and the Advisory Committee considered that there was room for sizable economies estimated at \$200,000 in that area. Lastly, given actual expenses in recent years, the Advisory Committee had felt that a reduction of \$50,000

in the estimate for *ad hoc* expert groups would not be out of order. The total reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee under chapter III amounted, therefore, to \$450,000.

7. Turning to chapter IV, he said that, since the estimate showed an increase of more than 31 per cent over actual expenses in 1969 and was more than 18 per cent over the appropriation for 1971, the Advisory Committee had considered that there was a need for stricter control of overtime costs. The latter should not be allowed to rise because of the shorter working hours of the Secretariat. It had therefore recommended a reduction of \$150,000 under that chapter.

8. In the case of chapter V, the Advisory Committee had temporarily deleted credits, in a total amount of \$912,500, for provisional posts in offices for which the Administrative Management Service manpower surveys were expected to be completed during the current session. As those surveys became available, the Secretary-General might find it necessary, depending on their contents and on the Fifth Committee's decisions concerning them, to submit revised estimates. Indeed, he might have to do so for other purposes, because there were certain items for which provision had not been made under section 3 in the initial estimates. Leaving aside provisional posts currently under review, the Advisory Committee had recommended that other provisional posts should be reduced from 38 to 26 pending receipt of Administrative Management Service surveys of the units concerned. However, since the surveys were not expected during the current session, the recommended reduction of \$92,300 was a true reduction.

9. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) observed that, according to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, staff costs accounted for about 75 per cent of the Organization's budget and that corresponding increases in sections 3, 4 and 5 amounted to well over \$9 million. As stated in paragraph 3.12 of the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406), 76 of the new posts proposed arose from recommendations of the Administrative Management Service. There were various figures to show that the number of established posts in the five Secretariat units surveyed by the Service had increased between 1970 and 1971. The number of General Service posts in UNCTAD had decreased, but the decrease had apparently been short-lived, since table 15-6 in the budget estimates showed that the Secretary-General proposed that in 1972 General Service posts in UNCTAD should be increased from 140 to 147. The increase in the number of established posts between 1970 and 1971 did, of course, include the so-called provisional posts which the General Assembly had approved for 1970. Taking account of those posts, the total increase between 1970 and 1971 amounted to 83 posts in the Professional and higher categories and 84 posts in the General Service category. Following the increase in the number of established posts for 1971, the General Assembly was now faced with the Secretary-General's request for additional new posts. A comparison of table 3-4 in the budget estimates for 1971<sup>1</sup> and the corresponding table for 1972 showed that between 1970 and 1971, in New York, Geneva, the four regional economic commissions, Beirut and the information centres,

the number of established posts in the Professional and higher, General Service and local level categories had increased by 40, 45 and 36 respectively. According to the budget estimates for 1972, 79 new posts were requested. If to that figure were added the seven additional Professional and seven additional General Service posts requested for UNCTAD, the total number of new posts in 1972 would be 93. If the General Assembly approved that request, the increase in established posts between 1970 and 1972 under sections 3, 15 and 16 would total 263. In addition, on the basis of past experience it was to be expected that any revised estimates based on the remaining Administrative Management Service surveys would call for additional growth in the number of established posts.

10. The Advisory Committee had dealt with the problem of the growth of staff in its first report<sup>2</sup> on the budget estimates for the financial year 1969, in which it had stated that staff increases were warranted only when it was clear that existing staff could not absorb new workloads resulting from new decisions of the various United Nations organs. The Advisory Committee had added that it was not at all certain that the absorptive capacity had been completely exhausted or that further reductions could not be achieved by a reorganization of work or a redeployment of staff. Lastly, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General should undertake a detailed survey, preferably desk by desk, of existing personnel, their deployment and utilization. In its first report<sup>3</sup> on the budget estimates for the financial year 1970, the Advisory Committee had reiterated its belief that there was an unevenness in the intensity of the use of posts and that savings might be achieved by a reorganization of work within the Secretariat or a redeployment of staff.

11. It was clear that the increase in the number of established posts in 1971 and the prospective increase in 1972, which were directly connected with the Administrative Management Service surveys, were contrary to the positions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee which he had cited and which had been conducive to the establishment of the Service. Consequently, his delegation could not endorse the approach taken by the Administrative Management Service, which had resulted in a systematic growth in the number of posts and thus to increases in the Organization's budget.

12. Mr. SELMECI (Hungary) said a study of the Advisory Committee's report indicated that year after year some of its recommendations had not been duly noted by the Secretariat. In paragraph 168 of its first report<sup>4</sup> on the estimates for 1971, the Advisory Committee had stated that, pending the completion of the Administrative Management Service survey, additions to the staff should be confined to the posts needed to give effect to new specific decisions of the General Assembly and other competent organs that could not be implemented within the existing establishment, and in paragraph 169 it had suggested that reductions in new provisional staffing requirements could be made in the Offices of Personnel and General Services. Yet the 38 new

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 47, 48 and 50.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8, para. 65.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 8.

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6, and corrigenda.*



provisional posts asked for by the Secretary-General were in precisely those two departments.

13. The estimate for chapter IV relating to overtime and night differential was 18 per cent higher than the appropriation for 1971; that was a really substantial increase. He hoped that, in view of the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraph 164 of its first report on the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 and in paragraph 128 of its corresponding report for 1972, the Administrative Management Service would without delay study ways of reducing overtime costs.

14. The Advisory Committee had noted in paragraph 155 of its first report on the budget estimates for 1971 and in paragraphs 114-115 of its corresponding report for 1972 that the figures for chapter II for temporary assistance for meetings continued to rise, although the number of meetings had remained virtually unchanged and the volume of General Assembly documentation had actually decreased between 1968 and 1970. Yet the 1972 estimates provided for \$67,800 for additional temporary staff. Obviously, merely suggesting a decrease here and there was not enough. A separate follow-up report by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee might help the Fifth Committee to deal effectively with the problem.

15. Of the \$15.5 million increase in the estimates for 1972 nearly \$8.2 million fell under section 3, and of that amount about \$7.2 million was due to increases in salary and related scales and nearly \$1 million to new requirements above the approved level for 1971. It was true that the Secretary-General could do little about salary increases. But the \$1 million for new requirements was open to criticism, since it represented not staff needed for new programmes but, in the main, temporary assistance, overtime and provisional staffing in units such as the Offices of General Services, Personnel and Conference Services that were not directly connected with the modest increase of 0.8 per cent in programmes envisaged for 1972, which could surely be absorbed by the existing establishment. He therefore fully supported the proposal, made by the representative of Poland at the 1431st meeting, that the Secretariat manning table should be frozen at the 1971 level for at least a year, pending completion of the Administrative Management Service survey.

16. His delegation was alarmed to find that the Administrative Management Service survey had not succeeded in raising productivity and thus reducing the number of staff. On the contrary, the Service had given blanket approval to requests for more staff. Most of the new posts were for units already surveyed, and although about 75 per cent of the Organization had been surveyed, there was no evidence of any cut in staff. From that standpoint, a table showing the yearly percentage increase of the Professional and programme-supporting staff and the expansion of programmes for the past five years, which his delegation had requested at the 1437th meeting, would be most useful, and he regretted that the Committee had not been given such a table. It could help the Committee to determine whether, as his delegation believed, the yearly increase in staff far surpassed any expansion of the programmes proposed by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies.

17. In accordance with the foregoing remarks, his delegation could not vote for the appropriations requested under section 3.

18. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) observed that, in paragraphs 110, 116 and 122 of its first report on the budget estimates for 1972, the Advisory Committee stressed the need for increased productivity. The experience of the United States Government showed that it was one thing to call for increased productivity but quite another to achieve it. It would be interesting if the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the representative of the Secretary-General could indicate what was being, or could be, done to increase productivity.

19. Mr. GUPTA (India), referring to paragraph 71 of document A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, said that presumably when the Fifth Committee approved, even in first reading, budgetary allocations for sections, it also tacitly approved any changes in the manning tables related to those sections. It was to be presumed that the Secretary-General intended to absorb the new posts referred to in paragraphs 67-71 of the said document, in the manning table for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The changes had been proposed after the budgetary documents had been prepared and, consequently, had not been reflected in them. Nevertheless, the Committee should be given some information on the subject.

20. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) asked when the information—preferably in writing—requested by his delegation at the 1434th meeting concerning individual experts and consultants would be available. His delegation had hoped to have it before the Committee discussed section 3.

21. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said, with regard to the United States representative's question, that the representative of the Secretary-General would indicate what was being done to increase productivity. As to what could be done, he was unable, of course, to give a comprehensive answer extemporaneously, but there would seem to be certain obvious ways of improving productivity. They included strict adherence to working hours, less revision of translations, and not allowing time off for training during peak working hours. In paragraph 40 of its first report, the Advisory Committee had suggested that in the next phase of its work, the Administrative Management Service should place more emphasis on productivity.

22. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that the Secretariat was making strenuous efforts to improve productivity. The recommendations of the Administrative Management Service had resulted, or would result, in a restructuring of departments which would lead to a better use of personnel and increased productivity. The new structure proposed for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for example, would result in better utilization of staff. Attention was also being paid to the training of supervisory personnel with a view to providing them with a better knowledge of the operations of the Organization, and advising them how to increase the productivity of their staff. Steps were being taken to ensure adherence to working hours, and attention was also being paid to other practical means of improving output.



23. The Secretariat hoped that the Hungarian delegation would have a reply to its question within 48 hours, and that the Polish delegation would have the reply to its question no later than the following day. With regard to the Indian representative's comments, revised estimates were being prepared for offices on which the Administrative Management Service had recently completed its surveys; they would take account of the changes in the manning table for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

24. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said the question of productivity was very important but, as he had already observed, it was one thing to call for an increase in productivity and quite another to achieve a real improvement. Referring to paragraph 40 of the Advisory Committee's first report, he said it would be interesting to know what specific areas the Administrative Management Service had considered from the expert viewpoint. In particular, he would like to know whether or not it was realistic to expect substantial improvement. He observed that the United States Government over a period of years had attempted to measure "productivity" but had had only limited success in that endeavour.

25. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said it was difficult to give a useful answer to the United States question; the Secretary-General's report on the Administrative Management Service would go into the question in detail and would provide the Committee with a basis for discussion in greater depth.

26. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) recalled that during the general discussion at the 1440th meeting his delegation had asked to be informed of the time-table for the work of the Administrative Management Service for 1972, so that it could know what areas the Service would be concentrating on.

27. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) pointed out that table 2 in document A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 gave the work programme of the Administrative Management Service to the end of April 1972. The Secretary-General's report would show that one or two of the surveys had fallen behind schedule, and that report was expected to give the programme for April-December 1972.

28. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) said that, where section 3 was concerned, the salient fact was that expenditure on salaries and wages in 1970 had been \$76.2 million while the estimates for 1972 were \$94.3 million, or an increase of nearly 25 per cent. The expansion of staff was much faster than the expansion of programmes; it was not a sound and rational evolution, and would undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the already grave financial situation. The extraneous factors of inflation and unsettled monetary conditions had, of course, played their part; nevertheless, the endless unjustified increase in staff and the almost automatic proliferation of new posts were one of the main causes of mounting expenditure and thus of the Organization's ever-greater financial difficulties. There must be stricter control. The reduction in unnecessary expenditure must be accompanied by increased efficiency in the Secretariat.

29. He fully agreed with the representative of Italy (1428th meeting) that the proliferation of United Nations organs, with the resulting overlapping, meant a waste of energy, and that the continuation of unnecessary programmes that should be eliminated led to a sense of frustration among the staff. He was convinced that in order to maintain good staff morale, it was essential to enable staff members to apply all their talents and enthusiasm to the great tasks of the Organization, and that required the most rational deployment of all the staff. It was regrettable that the Administrative Management Service survey on the use and distribution of Secretariat staff had apparently not led to the hoped-for results. He did not believe that the 1970 reduction in the working week and the increase in wages and salaries were steps in the right direction if they were accompanied by a further expansion of staff and if additional funds were requested to pay for both temporary assistance and overtime. Consequently, his delegation reiterated its view that the Secretariat staff should be frozen at the 1971 level for at least a year.

30. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, while regretting that it had not gone further. He agreed with the view, expressed in paragraph 111 of its first report, that it would be premature to consider the reclassification of posts in advance of the findings of the Administrative Management Service. His delegation also shared the Advisory Committee's concern at the estimates for overtime and temporary assistance, and agreed with the views concerning productivity and the shorter working week expressed in paragraph 122 of its report.

31. His delegation was also concerned at the substantial expenditure on outside experts and consultants, and hoped that they would be recruited only when the necessary skills were nowhere to be found within the Secretariat. That was why he was anxious to have full information on the subject.

32. His delegation would refer at a later stage to the problems dealt with by the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System.

33. For the reasons he had given, he would not be able to support the budget estimates for section 3.

34. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that the Polish delegate would not insist on having the reply to his question circulated as an official document. That would lead to additional costs, and further time would be needed for translation.

35. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) said he had thought that it would be best to have the information submitted to the Fifth Committee in the form of an official document because several delegations had said during the general discussion that they attached great importance to the subject. However, if that would lead to further expense and delay, he would not insist on it.

#### SECTION 18. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)

36. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406)

had asked for an initial appropriation under section 18 of \$5,264,500. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 304 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 304) on the budget estimates, had recommended a reduction of \$46,000 for an appropriation of \$5,218,500.

37. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he wished to place on record his country's appreciation of the exemplary work being done by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees both in its territory and in many other countries. He hoped that the Office would continue to receive sufficient resources in manpower and funds, both out of the regular budget and from other sources, to enable it to carry out that great work. The High Commissioner was to be congratulated on the careful preparation of the budgetary estimates for the Office. They represented reasonable requirements and an effort to live within the limited resources available. His delegation fully endorsed the estimates and hoped that, if the High Commissioner, owing to circumstances beyond his control, found that additional funds were needed, the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee would co-operate to make them available.

38. Mr. N'DIAYE (Senegal) supported the views expressed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Office of the High Commissioner was doing most valuable work, and Senegal, which had 70,000 refugees in its territory, was happy to make a yearly contribution.

39. His delegation would vote for the estimates, and it agreed that if additional funds were needed later they should be provided.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 304) for an appropriation of \$5,218,500 under section 18 was approved on first reading by 64 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.*

*Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General*

40. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution on the salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/L.1062), and suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the Advisory Committee should consider it and report on the financial implications to the Fifth Committee.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(for the documentation, see the 1446th meeting)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1)*

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that, as stated in paragraph 3 of the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.4), the Committee had proceeded on the basis that the questions of information policy raised by the Secretary-General in his report on the question (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1) were not within its competence and called for consideration by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee had therefore merely informed the Fifth Committee of the financial implications of the various proposals submitted to it so that it might take informed decisions on them. A summary of the cost estimates contained in the four annexes (see A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1) to the Secretary-General's report had accordingly been given in paragraph 5. The Advisory Committee had not examined the estimates in great detail, since further proposals might yet be made. However, the Advisory Committee believed that the existing estimates of the financial implications gave a sufficiently realistic picture to enable the Fifth Committee to take a decision. The Secretary-General's report contained other suggestions and recommendations which, if adopted, would have further financial implications that the Advisory Committee would then have to examine. As stated in paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report, the Secretary-General had made no provision for equipping the television and radio studios in the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva.

2. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) said that the purpose of the Secretary-General's report was to define the Office of Public Information's mandate and determine to what extent it should be revised. The Office of Public Information was subject to somewhat contradictory requests, and it was difficult for it to decide on its own what its policy should be. It therefore needed assistance in defining the content and exact scope of its activities. The role of the Office of Public Information, as defined in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, was, essentially, to assist public and private information services by providing them with the necessary information, without establishing direct contact with the public and without engaging in propaganda. However, in some fields—*apartheid* and human rights, for

instance—the Office of Public Information was called on to take a more active approach. Moreover, opinion as to the nature of its role was divided; some criticized it for not doing enough, while others felt that it overstepped its mandate. It therefore needed help in defining the exact nature of its duties.

3. Mr. FARAH (Somalia) pointed out that the Secretary-General's report on the question was of crucial importance to all United Nations activities in the political, social and economic fields, particularly those of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Most of the causes supported by the United Nations were universal ones, and the Office of Public Information should adopt a more positive approach to them. Those causes were vital to the countries of the third world, which relied in that connexion on United Nations information activities. He therefore proposed that the Committee should not take any decision on the Secretary-General's report until the various political organs of the General Assembly had adopted a position on the role of the Office of Public Information, to which the countries of the third world attached the greatest importance.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that the views of the representative of Somalia would be taken into account. However, the Committee had its schedule of work to maintain, and any indefinite delay would not be possible.

5. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question of United Nations information activities was very important, because of the crucial political role of information in the modern world. He was therefore surprised that the Secretary-General's report on the question should have been submitted to the Fifth Committee, which dealt exclusively with administrative and budgetary questions. He agreed with the representative of Somalia that United Nations information activities should be studied by the competent political organs. His delegation had already recommended that the question should be studied by the Consultative Panel on Public Information established under General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint, in consultation with the Governments of Member States, a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographical areas and main cultures of the world, and to consult with members of that panel from time to time on United Nations information policies and programmes in order to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost. That resolution was still in effect, and he was surprised that the Secretary-General had not convened the Panel for several years. Since the Advisory Committee, as its Chairman had said, had had to

limit itself to the budgetary aspects of the problem and had been unable to adopt a position on policy questions, which were outside its competence, the Fifth Committee should not take a decision on the proposals before it until the organs dealing with political questions had formulated their views on the activities of the Office of Public Information. It should therefore postpone consideration of the question and request the Secretary-General to convene the Panel referred to in resolution 1405 (XIV) with a view to consulting it on the proposals before the General Assembly, and to submit to the Fifth Committee a report that would take into account the Panel's conclusions and recommendations. That course of action would not delay the Committee's work, for the Secretary-General could convene the Panel within the next few days, thus enabling the Committee to examine the proposals in the Secretary-General's report at the current session and take a decision on them in the light of the Panel's conclusions and recommendations. He pointed out that the Consultative Panel was to be representative of "the various geographical areas and main cultures of the world" and should therefore be constituted on an equitable geographical basis.

6. Mr. PICK (Canada) felt that the Office of Public Information had a very important role to play, for its function was to promote an informed understanding of the purposes and activities of the Organization throughout the world, and particularly in regions where information media were less well developed. The Fifth Committee did not seem to him to be the most suitable forum in which to discuss United Nations information policies and activities. If those policies and activities had been subject to some criticism, that was attributable largely to the fact that the Office of Public Information did not report to any body that might guide it in its work and that its mandate and policies had not been reviewed in an appropriate forum for the past few years. In order to remedy the situation, his delegation proposed that the Consultative Panel established under General Assembly resolution 1405 should be revived. The Panel, which consisted of 13 members, had last met in 1967. It would be very useful to the new Secretary-General in the carrying out of his duties. One of its first tasks might be to consider the acquisition and replacement programme for television, radio and photographic equipment. It might also review the needs expressed by the Office of Public Information for a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa before any debate on the two proposals in the Committee. In view of the serious financial crisis facing the Organization, his delegation did not feel that the Office of Public Information should embark on such costly activities before the Consultative Panel had had a chance thoroughly to review those proposals and other information activities of the Office of Public Information.

7. Finally, his delegation would express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his action in establishing the French Language Production Unit on a permanent basis in the Press and Publications Division of the Office of Public Information, as he had promised to do during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

8. His delegation might have other comments to add during the discussion of the report of the Secretary-General.

9. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) noted that the estimated cost of public information activities in 1972 was \$11.2 million gross and more than \$9.7 million net. That already considerable amount would increase by \$469,500 if the recommendations and suggestions in the Secretary-General's report were approved.

10. His delegation believed that the spreading of objective information about United Nations debates and activities was important, in that it made world public opinion more aware of the goals of the Charter and thus helped towards the achievement of social and economic progress, in justice and peace. It also realized that technological developments in the information field were considerable and that the equipment used became obsolete after a short time. However, the range of that field was unlimited, as was the margin for technical improvement. On the other hand, the financial means of the Organization were limited, and no effort should be spared to make the best possible use of them through a careful choice of priorities to avoid any increase in expenses at a time when economy was imperative.

11. The Fifth Committee's task was not only to examine the administrative and financial implications of current and future Office of Public Information activities but also to consider the general policy to be pursued through information activities. Actually, the proposals and suggestions submitted on the subject did not fall within the limits of ordinary administration; they entailed decisions of policy. The representative of Somalia had said that the political organs of the General Assembly must be consulted. In that connexion, he noted that the Consultative Panel on Public Information had not been consulted with regard to the proposals in the Secretary-General's report. He would like to know why the Panel had not met for several years and whether the Secretary-General intended to consult it on his proposals. In particular, the Panel should give its opinion on the extent to which the Office of Public Information should devote resources to colour television, rather than to black and white.

12. His delegation was astonished to see that, while it was intended to set up in 1972 a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, the Advisory Committee had learned (see A/8408/Add.4, para. 8) that not even the Governments of the countries which the bureau was to serve and which its staff would visit periodically had been consulted. There again, the advice of the Consultative Panel could usefully be sought.

13. Turning to the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report, he noted from paragraph 65 that a post of Special Assistant had been established, as recommended by the Administrative Management Service, to help the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information in formulating long-range information policy and planning and in constantly reviewing existing policy. However, the advice of a Secretariat official, no matter how valuable, could never replace a periodic review of such questions by the Consultative Panel composed of representatives of Member States.

14. Where the Press and Publications Division was concerned, he would like to pay a tribute to the quality of the press releases issued by the Office of Public Information.

Nevertheless, as the Secretary-General himself stated in paragraph 86 of his report, some effort must be made to curtail the total output of press releases in the interest both of economy and efficiency. To that end, a selection of subjects, and above all the adoption of a telegraphic style to summarize only the substance of a debate or a situation, were necessary.

15. The list of meetings in paragraph 95 of the Secretary-General's report was interesting, because it gave an idea of the proliferation of committees, commissions and bodies of all kinds within the United Nations. However, their rigid division into three groups did not really make it possible to determine which were newsworthy. That was where Office of Public Information officials must rely on their experience and skill in making the proper selection.

16. With regard to recurrent publications, he said that ways should be explored to increase sales, making such publications more widely known and perhaps more appealing to the public. He noted from paragraph 113 of the Secretary-General's report that the revenue from editions of the *UN Monthly Chronicle* in languages other than English had not been sufficient to cover the cost of production.

17. As stated in paragraph 109 of the report, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* for 1969 would not appear before the end of 1971. He hoped that the situation would be remedied, because the *Yearbook* was a valuable work of reference.

18. In conclusion, he said that, having regard to the Organization's current financial situation, too ambitious projects should be avoided and realistic priorities should be established.

19. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) asked what organ had, from 1946 onward, reviewed United Nations information activities and adopted resolutions setting guidelines for the Office of Public Information.

20. His delegation wished to state at once that it had reservations with regard to the Consultative Panel. The changes in both the activities and the membership of the Organization had been such that the Panel, as originally constituted, seemed of doubtful value. He would revert to the question at a later stage.

21. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that he had been interested to hear the comments of the Soviet, Canadian and Italian delegations on the Consultative Panel and the role it could play in defining information policies. The composition of the Panel might be altered, as the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had appeared to suggest.

22. His delegation associated itself with the Canadian representative's expression of appreciation for the establishment of a French Language Production Unit in the Press and Publications Division of the Office of Public Information.

23. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) noted that the Secretary-General's report was originally to have been submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session. At the

twenty-fifth session, consideration of the question had been deferred until the results of the Administrative Management Survey were available. His delegation believed that the time had come for the Committee to take a position on information policies. The representative of Somalia was right in stating that the views of the political organs must be taken into account, but that did not mean that the Fifth Committee must wait until the Consultative Panel had considered the report, which would delay its consideration by the Committee for a further year. He agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania regarding the composition of the Consultative Panel.

24. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) said that he was not in a position to reply to the representative of Italy's question as to why the Consultative Panel had not met for several years.

25. Replying to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he said that resolutions relating to information activities had originally been adopted by the General Assembly. Subsequently, the Fifth Committee had considered the budgetary aspects of information questions, but no review of general policy matters had ever been undertaken.

26. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that he wished to make a few comments on the activities and programmes of the Office of Public Information.

27. Press releases were, on the whole, satisfactory but there seemed to be a tendency to present news in such a way that it did not reach the general public. Information should command attention and the Organization's debates should be made more interesting. In that connexion, he asked whether the presentation of information was based on models prepared many years previously which had not kept pace with the development of mass information media or whether, because of the policies of one group or another, the Secretariat imposed a given style which did not permit the faithful reflection of what was said. United Nations information was distinguished in three ways: it was biased, it was incomplete, and it was sometimes completely non-existent.

28. As to the dissemination of information on the United Nations through information centres and services abroad, he said that such centres were not able to compete with professional information media, and he wondered whether they were fulfilling their role effectively. The Secretariat should examine the question, evaluating the cost of those information centres and services, the operation of which appeared to be a waste of money. It might be better to reduce their number and to explore the possibilities of concluding an agreement to relay United Nations news by satellite, using for that purpose the resources that would be released by the closing of a number of information centres and services. The voice of the United Nations should be heard throughout the world, and its news should be impartial.

29. He would welcome a written reply to the questions he had raised and the suggestions he had made with a view to improving and reorganizing the Office of Public Information.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

## SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (continued) (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1)

30. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) noted that the estimate submitted under section 3 for 1972 amounted to \$94,338,000, or approximately \$8.2 million more than the 1971 appropriation. Yet, there had been a spectacular reduction in the number of posts requested under all budget sections over the past few years. For instance, in 1969 the Secretary-General had requested 607 new posts, while in 1972 he was requesting only 65 new posts, including provisional posts, in the Professional category. At the same time, because of inflation, staff costs had soared. The Secretary-General could not be blamed for the increase in costs, but it was to be hoped that the reduction in the number of posts requested did not reflect a deliberate policy aimed at zero growth in new programmes.

31. As had been pointed out, estimates for temporary staff had increased considerably in recent years. As was stated by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 114 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, the increase occurred in the number as well as the cost of temporary staff. He wondered if there was any connexion between the recent decline in the number of new posts requested by the Secretary-General and the increase in temporary staff and consultant service costs. His delegation realized that, the fewer new posts the Secretary-General requested, the more he was obliged to make use of temporary staff to provide needed services to Member States at minimum acceptable standards, but it could not agree that temporary personnel should be recruited in order to allow Secretariat staff to go on leave or to do the work which the staff should be doing. Similarly, consultants should be employed only in specific cases to perform highly specialized tasks, when the necessary expertise was not available in the Secretariat.

32. His delegation endorsed the estimate for section 3, with the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee.

33. It had noted with interest the Secretary-General's conclusions on the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1). It would be interesting, however, to know exactly what the Secretary-General meant when he recommended that "the 1972 staffing for the Department, both established and provisional, be held essentially at the 1971 level". He noted with satisfaction that the five proposed senior posts could be financed through the redeployment of existing resources; nevertheless, programmes under way in other units must not be allowed to suffer. If they did, it would simply be grist to the mill of those who opposed the increase in staff costs on the ground that the Secretary-General was not using all the resources available to him.

34. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs described in the Secretary-General's report was currently under way.

The work was being reorganized and redistributed, and at the same time an attempt was being made to hold expenses essentially at the 1971 level; that was what the Secretary-General had meant. The department was not actually overstuffed, but it was trying to make better use of the staff it had.

35. Mr. TOKINOYA (Japan) said that his delegation was very concerned at the increase in staff costs, the increase in the number of established and provisional posts requested every year and the growing number of consultants employed.

36. With regard to chapter I, paragraph 3.6 of the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406) indicated that an additional \$6,318,800 was required to continue the establishment as approved for 1971. In paragraph 3.7, it was explained that some \$3.6 million of that amount was attributable to the application for the full year 1972 of the 8 per cent increase in the salaries of Professional and higher categories authorized by the General Assembly in 1970. It seemed, therefore, that the remaining \$2.7 million represented, *inter alia*, the increases in General Service salaries and Manual Worker wages which had been decided on since the 1971 appropriations had been approved.

37. As stated in paragraph 3.3 of the Secretary-General's report on the supplementary estimates for 1971,<sup>1</sup> General Service salaries and Manual Worker wages had been raised with effect from 1 July and 1 June 1971 respectively. The rate of increase for the two categories had been 8 per cent. Yet, the Secretary-General anticipated a further increase in General Service salary rates in New York early in 1972. His delegation found it difficult to understand why the Secretary-General had to anticipate another increase less than one year after the salary rate for that category had been raised by 8 per cent. Secondly, the Secretary-General indicated in the Table appearing in paragraph 3.7 of the 1972 budget estimates the additional amount needed to meet the anticipated increases in General Service salaries and Manual Worker wages in 1972. His delegation would like to know approximately what increase, in percentage terms, over the existing salary and wage levels for those two categories was contemplated.

38. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that he would reply to the Japanese representative's questions at the following meeting, when he would be able to give him a comprehensive and precise answer.

39. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) recalled that during the general discussion he had said that, with the passage of time, some staff members outgrew their functions. He had queried whether such staff members, who had acquired much experience, could not be assigned to other work either in different or in related fields or could not be appointed to vacant or new posts, thus allowing economies in recruitment. He was gratified to learn that the Secretariat contemplated taking such steps with a view to a better utilization of staff.

40. Mr. GUPTA (India), referring to the Japanese representative's statement, said that originally the increase for

<sup>1</sup> Document A/8458, relating to agenda item 75, issued separately (offset).

General Service staff was to have been 6.5 per cent but that in July 1971, the Secretary-General had agreed to raise it to 8 per cent, the rate of the increase granted to Professional staff as from 1 July. One of the documents before the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had indicated that the Secretary-General was prepared to request the General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session, for a further increase in General Service salaries, over and above the 8 per cent granted in July, and for the adoption of a system whereby such salaries would automatically be increased whenever there was a change in the post adjustment paid to the Professional staff. He would like to know what had become of those suggestions, which, if submitted to the General Assembly, would constitute a departure from the basic principles governing the General Service salary system.

41. With regard to paragraph 3.10 of the budget estimates for 1972, he said that when General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) relating to the use of working languages had been adopted, the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had not yet been established. The Special Committee had been given a wide mandate and was to deal with all aspects of the United Nations salary system. It would be wise, therefore, to defer the implementation of paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of the resolution until the Special Committee had submitted recommendations on the subject. He would like to know in what form the data needed to determine which staff members could benefit from the provisions of the resolution would be collected, and he hoped that they would include information about the nationality and linguistic group of the staff members. He drew the Committee's attention to the special difficulties encountered by staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the Organization.

42. Mr. NAITO (Japan) endorsed the Indian representative's comments on paragraph 3.10 of the budget estimates.

43. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) agreed with the comments of the representatives of Japan and India and requested that, when the data needed to determine which staff members could benefit from the provisions of resolution 2480 B (XXIII) were produced, the manner in which they had been collected should be indicated.

44. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that he wished to put two questions concerning chapter III, article (ii) (Individual experts and consultants). Paragraph 3.28 of the budget estimates stated that the provision was for the travel, subsistence and fees or other remuneration of the experts and consultants. Could the Secretary-General indicate the breakdown between the various expenses?

45. Secondly, in paragraph 124 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates the Advisory Committee expressed the view that individual experts and consultants should be employed only when the necessary expertise was not available in the Secretariat. It appeared from that paragraph that part of the appropriation in question was used for other purposes. He would like the Secretariat to provide some information on that question.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would be able, at the following meeting, to reply to all the questions that had been put at the current meeting.

*The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Woschnagg (Austria),  
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)  
(for the A/. . . and A/C.5/. . . documents, see the 1446th  
meeting; A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/  
L.1064, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/  
CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, E/5038)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP/3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (*continued*) (A/  
8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND  
ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND  
ADD.1/CORR.1)

1. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said he would answer the questions raised at the previous meeting by the representatives of Japan and India on the subject of salary increases for General Service and Manual Worker staff at Headquarters. Increases of 8 per cent had been granted to staff in the General Service category as from 1 July 1971, and of 10.2 per cent to staff in the Manual Worker category as from 1 June 1971. The provision in the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406, para. 3.7) for a further adjustment in General Service salary rates was based on a projection of conditions as at April of the current year. Since the next survey of the rates of pay for comparable jobs in the New York area would not be available until 1972, it was not possible at that stage for a more precise estimate to be made as to the adequacy of credits requested by the Secretary-General in his initial estimates, or as to the date on which the next upward adjustment would become necessary. The Secretary-General proposed, therefore, that the estimate be maintained at its present level.

2. The representative of India had also referred to a communication addressed by the Secretary-General in July 1971 to staff at Headquarters concerning General Service salaries. Since that time, discussions between representatives of the Secretary-General and the Staff Committee had led to the conclusion that no action needed to be asked of the General Assembly on the matter. Relations between the Secretary-General and the staff in the non-Professional category would continue to be governed by the arrangements already in force.

3. As to the question of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) designed to ensure a

linguistic balance within the Secretariat, he said that unless the General Assembly decided otherwise, the Secretary-General was required to apply those provisions in 1972. A report encompassing criteria to be applied in determining who would be eligible to receive the incentives in question, together with related financial implications, would be presented to the Fifth Committee at the time of its consideration of other personnel questions under agenda item 84.

4. In reply to the question asked by the representative of the United States concerning chapter III, (ii) (Individual experts and consultants), he explained that a flat fee was normally paid to a consultant who undertook to complete a specific task or to prepare a report within a specified period. The words "other remuneration" referred to salaries paid to experts over a period of several months to perform certain continuing but nevertheless temporary, specialized tasks. Consultants employed by the Administrative Management Service were a case in point. An extensive analysis would be required to distinguish the cost of fees and the cost of "other remuneration". It could be stated, however, that of a total of some \$777,700 committed or spent at Headquarters for consultants over the period October 1970 to September 1971, \$703,400, or some 90.4 per cent of the total, related to fees and "other remuneration", and \$74,300, or some 9.6 per cent, to travel and subsistence. On this basis, it could be estimated that of credits of \$1,358,600 requested by the Secretary-General for 1972, approximately \$1,228,200 related to fees and "other remuneration" and \$130,400 to travel and subsistence.

5. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to a question by the representative of the United States at the previous meeting concerning paragraph 124 of the Advisory Committee's first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972, explained why the Committee had felt it must emphasize that experts and consultants should be employed only when the necessary expertise was not available in the Secretariat. It appeared that some departments were too inclined to use consultants. Of course, it could be argued that even if the Secretariat had the necessary specialists, they would probably be busy. However, since programmes were constantly changing and experts often went from one job to another for a short spell, the Advisory Committee felt that the possibilities in the Secretariat should first be carefully explored. In reply to a further question by the same representative at the 1446th meeting concerning paragraph 40 of the Advisory Committee's report, he explained that the Advisory Committee had wished to place greater emphasis on productivity. It believed that one of the places where output could be measured more precisely was the Translation Service.



The purpose of paragraph 40 was simply to find out what was being done in the Secretariat to increase productivity.

6. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) thanked the Secretariat for the documents it had furnished him on the problem of consultants and said that he would cite and comment on the passages he considered most important. While he thanked the Controller for personally answering three of his questions, he regretted that the answers were not satisfactory and that no answer at all had been given to the question concerning the steps which the Secretariat was taking, or intended to take, to limit to the strict minimum the use of individual consultants and experts, so as to avoid the possible waste of funds.

7. Noting that the Advisory Committee had also expressed, in paragraphs 33 and 119 of its first report, concern about the matter, he observed that an analysis of the list of consultants employed by Headquarters between October 1970 and September 1971 showed that the recruitment of consultants from the geographical point of view was far from complying with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Admittedly, in the case of highly specialized consultants, it was not possible to apply a rule of rigid proportionality, but it was shocking to find a total disregard for a principle which should be observed. The list contained 361 names of consultants, of which 178, or almost 50 per cent, were United States citizens and 100 were British subjects. Only 31 consultants from all the socialist countries and 13 from the African countries were on the list. That was a most glaring example of discrimination.

8. Another problem was that while employing a very large number of consultants, the United Nations was spending \$90 million annually on its permanent staff. The Secretariat replied that it did not have the necessary experts on its staff. However, when the Department of Economic and Social Affairs spent \$8,000 to pay consultants to edit a publication series, one was inclined to wonder what its own staff was doing during that time. Why, he asked, was the Statistical Office paying \$2,600 for checking proof-sheets of the United Nations *Statistical Yearbook* in Switzerland when it had a large staff of its own at Geneva? Why was the same Office paying \$6,000 to have a study made on methods of improving statistics instead of assigning that task to its own experts subject simply to revision by consultants? Why order a \$4,500 study made on the financing of the utilization of water resources when there already existed a series of excellent scientific publications on the subject? Why pay a consultant \$2,000 to help edit the essential parts of the documentation needed for the Special Group of Experts on the question of the supply and demand of crude oil and oil products, when that was a typical example of the work that could be done by members of the staff? Why pay \$4,800 for a study on Hovercraft, when there was already a number of good publications on the subject? Why assign a study on Latin American experience in social mobilization and popular participation in development to a United States expert when ECLA was already dealing with those questions? The examples which he had cited, and of which there were many more, amply sufficed to justify the scepticism of the Advisory Committee and the criticism of the Polish delegation. That was why he formally proposed that the

problem of consultants should be thoroughly examined, in all its aspects, by the Joint Inspection Unit, which would submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. That would enable the Fifth Committee to undertake the preparation of practical and productive conclusions in the matter of consultants.

9. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) pointed out that the problem of promoting productivity was very sensitive and complex. While some aspects, such as recruitment standards, training, working conditions and pay were tangible, others such as staff morale and organization of work were more difficult to evaluate. As the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had said in his statement at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377), high productivity and low morale were unlikely consorts, and the morale of the staff reflected, at least to some extent, the actions and attitudes of the Member States. While the Fifth Committee had the right and the duty to be critical of the performance of the Secretariat, too much scepticism and exaggerated criticisms could be counter-productive.

10. On the whole, as the Secretary-General had said in his statement at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376), the Secretariat deserved some credit for good management. If the Fifth Committee were more generous with its praise, which was well deserved, that would tend to boost the morale and hence the productivity of the staff.

11. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that his delegation, too, was concerned at the proliferation of consultants and supported the proposal of the representative of Poland to have the Joint Inspection Unit study the question.

12. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) also felt that most of the work done by consultants could be given to the permanent staff. He fully supported the proposal of the representative of Poland.

13. Miss FORCIGNANÓ (Italy) asked, in connexion with paragraph 123 of the first report of the Advisory Committee, whether the Secretariat was using the estimates under article (i) (General temporary assistance) of chapter III to finance additional permanent posts.

14. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that he fully shared the concern of the representatives of Poland, France and Mexico with regard to the problem of consultants, and wished to join them in requesting that the Joint Inspection Unit should study the question.

15. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said in reply to the Polish representative that he regretted having given the impression that the Secretariat did not attach importance to the question of consultants, for it was a matter of great concern. The Secretary-General had made suggestions to limit the use of consultants. While the increase in expenditure was real, it was not excessive. Between 1966 and 1970 there had been an increase of 30 per cent, a large part of which had been due to the higher pay and other remuneration for consultants and experts resulting from the general trend of salaries throughout the world. Within the Secretariat the recruitment of consultants was the responsibility of the substantive departments and the Budget Division. The appropriations for that purpose

were allocated to the different departments, which were asked not to exceed the total amount of the appropriations allocated to them. On the whole, that discipline was observed, and permission to recruit a consultant had to be confirmed by the Office of the Controller. In the case of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, supervision was exercised by the Department itself. However, the examples adduced by the Polish representative seemed rather striking; the situation would be looked into and corrective measures taken in case a department did not comply with the general standards.

16. In reply to the question by the Italian representative, he explained that in some cases funds appropriated for temporary assistance were used for posts held by persons recruited for six months or one year. General Service staff members at Headquarters were a case in point, when the rental of external premises created an additional need for technical personnel.

17. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) inquired at which level the decision was taken to hire experts or consultants.

18. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that a request for a consultant was made at the divisional level, but the decision was taken by the Under-Secretary-General responsible for the department. The request then went to the Office of Personnel, which was responsible for recruiting the expert and determining the amount of his remuneration. The selection of the expert was therefore the responsibility of the head of the department and the Director of Personnel.

19. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) said that he had not intended to cast any doubt on the validity of the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 124 of its first report but he would have liked to have more details on the matter.

20. Mr. FERNANDEZ MAROTO (Spain) said that he shared the view of the representatives of Poland and France and felt that the question of consultants should be examined by the Joint Inspection Unit, which could report on the subject to the General Assembly at the following session.

21. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) inquired whether the Joint Inspection Unit was able to undertake the study requested by the Polish representative and whether the study would involve additional expenditure. He also asked whether all staff resources were fully explored before it was decided that the Secretariat did not have the necessary expertise and that consultants had to be hired.

22. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reiterated that administrative expenses accounted for the greatest part of the United Nations budget and imposed a heavy burden on the Member States. It seemed reasonable to try to balance the budget by taking stock of available resources and using them better, so as to reduce staff expenses. He would propose the deletion of all the appropriations requested under chapters II and III for temporary staff, since they made it more difficult to make full use of the permanent staff.

23. He agreed with the Polish representative that the Joint Inspection Unit should make a thorough study of the

question of consultants. Measures should be taken forthwith to reduce the use of consultants, who should be hired only when absolutely necessary to carry out tasks which called for special expertise. He also agreed with the Polish representative that expansion of the Secretariat was prejudicial to United Nations programmes. Nevertheless, the staff was constantly increasing while nothing was apparently being done to increase the productivity of existing staff. Temporary posts, which subsequently became permanent, were partly responsible for the plethora of manpower. He would therefore propose that no funds should be appropriated for the temporary posts requested under chapter V. Before new posts were requested, it would be logical to review existing resources and eliminate duplication and overlapping. In his statement at the 1427th meeting, the Secretary-General had said that he had been forced to borrow \$15 million to meet current expenses, particularly salaries. The question arose whether he would be able to pay future salaries, and, in the circumstances, it was hardly reasonable to contemplate hiring more staff. In view of those considerations, his delegation intended to introduce a draft resolution along the following lines. In the preamble, the General Assembly would stress the need to adopt a stricter policy with regard to administrative expenses and to improve staff productivity through better management and the elimination of overlapping and duplication; in the operative part, it would decide to keep the 1972 manning table at the 1971 level and to discontinue the financing of all temporary posts with effect from 1 January 1972; it would also request the Secretary-General to study urgently the possibility of reducing the use of consultants and to submit a report on the question.

24. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that the examination of section 3 was most important, since staff salaries and wages accounted for 75 per cent of the Organization's budget. The United Nations was suffering from over-staffing. The solution therefore did not lie in creating additional posts, but in making better use of existing ones. Accordingly, the Secretary-General should make every effort to increase the productivity of the staff. He supported the proposal of the Polish representative that the Joint Inspection Unit should study the question of consultants.

25. Mr. BERTRÁN (Uruguay) stressed the importance of the problem of the payment of United Nations staff salaries mentioned by the Soviet representative.

26. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said, in reply to the question of the Pakistan representative, that the Joint Inspection Unit was required to draw up its work programme and to transmit it to Member States at the beginning of each year. Its next work programme would appear early in January 1972. The Joint Inspection Unit would take account of any request for its services resulting from decisions of the General Assembly.

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued) A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1)*

27. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) recalled that, in the course of the general discussion, his delegation had observed that the

Office of Public Information still had much to do in order to make the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade better appreciated and ensure its success. In particular, it had stressed the need to make the successes of the United Nations in the economic and social fields better known. It therefore welcomed the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa. It was convinced that the bureau would assist in mobilizing public opinion in favour of the activities being undertaken by ECA, which, in consultation with Governments, was endeavouring to promote regional co-operation in all fields. In that connexion, four documentary films had been prepared by the Office of Public Information in a praiseworthy effort to combat racism and *apartheid* in South Africa. He commended the Office of Public Information on its initiative and thanked it for making its inventory of documentary films available to developing countries which did not have the resources to hire them. He welcomed the Triangular Fellowship Programme established by the Office of Public Information in close co-operation with UNESCO. The impact of the programme, which brought together personalities connected with radio and television from developing countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa, would have the long-term effect of promoting a better understanding of the aims and accomplishments of the United Nations. His delegation also welcomed the programme of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, whose co-ordinating role, in minimizing overlapping and duplication and harmonizing the activities of various United Nations bodies, could achieve substantial savings and thus add to the resources of the Office of Public Information.

28. In the note furnished by the Administrator of UNDP in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10, his delegation had observed the efforts of UNDP's Development Support Information Service in responding to requests for more information material concerning UNDP's multilateral development assistance programme, which was dependent upon voluntary contributions and therefore upon Government and public understanding and support, especially in the more industrialized countries. In that sphere, there was need, more than anywhere else, not only to provide information but also to propagandize, in the salutary meaning of that term, the activities and successes of UNDP if the necessary voluntary contributions were to increase in volume.

29. He had noted in the documents under consideration, the absence of any training scheme for the existing staff of the Office of Public Information. His delegation wished to know what training facilities were available, both internally and extramurally, for the staff to improve their capabilities and efficiency. Actually, the achievement of the objective of increasing efficiency would minimize the heavy reliance on temporary staff and consultants. The saving thus realized could be used to enlarge the horizons of the activities of the Office of Public Information.

30. With respect to the revival of the Consultative Panel on Public Information, his delegation agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (1447th meeting) that the membership of the Panel should be changed.

31. His delegation considered that the Fifth Committee had the authority to formulate policies for the Office of Public Information and did not think that matters of broad policy should be discussed in other bodies. It was the Fifth Committee which, by approving a text which became resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959, had set up the Consultative Panel. Besides, the Fifth Committee already dealt with matters of broad policy, for example, when laying down guidelines for the Secretary-General to follow in recruitment efforts. While it seemed logical to take into account the views of other Committees in determining the policies of the Office of Public Information, that should not be used as a pretext to delay indefinitely consideration of the item.

32. His delegation unreservedly supported the request for funds for the Office of Public Information to enable it to carry out the tasks expected of it.

33. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the Canadian delegation had made a formal proposal at the previous meeting that the Consultative Panel on Public Information be asked to study the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General before the Fifth Committee considered those recommendations.

34. Mr. PICK (Canada) confirmed that his delegation had proposed that the Consultative Panel should be revived because it felt that the Fifth Committee, which dealt essentially with administrative and budgetary matters, might not be the best qualified body to study information policies and programmes, even if, as the representative of Ghana had observed, it was competent to do so. Moreover, although General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) provided for the creation of the Consultative Panel, it contained no indications as to its composition or size, which the Secretary-General's successor would be free to change if he wished.

35. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) urged the representatives of the Soviet Union and Canada to proceed in a manner that would not result in a further postponement of the item under consideration.

36. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Canadian delegation had proposed that the Consultative Panel should be revived but not that the Committee should wait, before reviewing United Nations information policies and activities, until the Consultative Panel had completed its consideration of the item.

37. He pointed out that there had been no reply to the question he had raised at the previous meeting. He wished to know which organ had adopted the first resolutions relating to the Office of Public Information, namely, the resolutions prior to resolution 1405 (XIV).

38. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that his delegation had not proposed that consideration of the item should be deferred to the following year, but it had suggested that the Secretary-General might convene the Consultative Panel in the next few days so as to enable the Committee, at the current session, to consider the proposals submitted to it in the

Secretary-General's report on the question (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1).

39. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that his delegation did not wish to foreclose a general discussion on the question; it had simply proposed referral to the Consultative Panel of two suggestions, one relating to the acquisition and replacement of equipment for the television, radio and photographic services, and the other to the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa.

40. Unlike the Soviet delegation, his delegation did not think the Fifth Committee could study those questions at the present session.

41. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that consideration of the item on information had been postponed every year for three years and it should not be postponed again.

42. His delegation had been surprised to hear the representative of Canada state that the new Secretary-General would not be bound by a General Assembly resolution.

43. Mr. PICK (Canada) replied that he had never meant to say that the Secretary-General would not be bound by General Assembly resolution 1405 (XXIV) but simply that he would be free to change the composition of the Consultative Panel.

44. Mr. SARAMO (Finland) said he would not repeat the observations which were made by his delegation at the previous session on the question under consideration (1410th meeting) and which were still valid.

45. The additional expenditure in 1972 for implementing the Secretary-General's proposals was estimated at nearly \$500,000 (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1). According to the Advisory Committee's related report (A/8408/Add.4), that was an underestimation, and the cost would be even higher in later years.

46. In view of the Organization's financial situation, the Finnish delegation felt that expenditure should be curtailed wherever possible, and therefore funds should not be appropriated for the proposed procurement of equipment or for the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa. Putting off those expenditures would not cause any serious difficulties to current information activities.

47. The \$10 million budget of the Office of Public Information was large enough to enable the Office with its present volume of resources to carry out high-priority activities, in particular, in the economic and social fields.

48. His delegation would stress the need for greater co-ordination of the activities of the Office of Public Information and those of other information organs of the United Nations family. An essential element was the elimination of unnecessary duplication. In that connexion, his delegation wondered whether all the information centres which existed at present in the industrialized countries really performed services that could not be handled tolerably well from Headquarters or from regional offices. The need for information centres was probably greater in the developing countries but even those centres might be integrated with other United Nations organs in the field, such as UNDP Resident Representatives' offices, as had, in fact, been done in some cases.

49. Economies ought also to be possible in the distribution of publications.

50. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) believed that the question the Committee should settle now was whether it was competent to deal with broad information policy. If it decided it was not competent, the best thing would be for the General Assembly to consider the matter in plenary session.

51. He doubted whether it would be useful to revive the Consultative Panel, which had originally been established to advise the Secretary-General and not to give advice to the General Assembly.

52. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) said that most Committee members seemed to be in agreement that it would be useful to revive the Consultative Panel. Opinions still differed on the composition of the Panel; in addition, the proposal of the Canadian delegation and that of the Soviet delegation differed only on one point, the timing of the Committee's examination of the question. The two delegations might try to agree on that point and consult delegations which had reservations concerning the Panel's composition.

53. Mr. GUPTA (India) pointed out that the statement by the representative of Belgium and that of the representative of Pakistan called for a decision by the Committee.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would return to the question at the following meeting, after the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had answered members' questions.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (for the A/... and A/C.5/... documents, see the 1446th meeting; A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, E/5038)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued) (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11)*

1. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information), after tracing the history of the subject, said that he would reply first to the question raised by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania at the 1447th meeting. In one sense, it was the Fifth Committee which, since the outset, had supervised the information policies and activities of the United Nations and had taken decisions on the matter. It was on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee that the General Assembly had adopted resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 establishing what was now the Office of Public Information—then called the Department of Public Information—and had subsequently reaffirmed by its resolution 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952 the basic principles laid down in 1946; the Fifth Committee had proposed the establishment of a committee of experts on United Nations Public Information and had subsequently discussed the Committee's report, which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1335 (XIII) of 13 December 1958. Moreover, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to that resolution, had until 1970 considered the annual report on the question submitted by the Secretary-General as an annex to the budget estimates. As well as that, however, every other organ of the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions, had made recommendations at one time or another on information activities in widely diverse fields. The United Nations Development Decade and the creation of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had led to a whole series of resolutions, not only from the Economic and Social Council and bodies such as UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNDP, but also from the Special Committees themselves. The various organs were not only urging the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in all the fields involved, they were pressing for information campaigns to mobilize public opinion. In that sense, all the other main

committees of the General Assembly could be said to have approved draft resolutions which related to the Office of Public Information.

2. The Soviet Union representative, at the 1447th meeting, had expressed surprise that, for some years, the Secretary-General had not convened the Consultative Panel on Public Information; he had suggested that the Committee should take no decision until the Panel had considered the question and reported to it at the current session. While it was not for the speaker to comment on the Secretary-General's decisions, he would point out that the terms of General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) were sufficiently general to be taken as meaning that the Secretary-General should merely consult the Panel from time to time. The Panel had met informally 10 times since its creation and the Secretary-General's custom had been not to convene it unless significant changes were contemplated in the activities or policies of the Office of Public Information. In 1967, the Secretary-General had accordingly submitted the first version of his report on the question to the Panel, which had thus considered it. Moreover, in paragraphs 10-17 of his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), the Secretary-General explained the methods he had employed to obtain the information on which his recommendations were based and said that he had taken account of attitudes of representatives of Member States and views expressed by members of the Consultative Panel at various meetings. It was open to the Committee to decide whether it would now take a decision on the report or whether the report should first be discussed by other bodies, the Consultative Panel or, as the Pakistan representative had suggested at the previous meeting, the General Assembly in plenary session.

3. In his opinion, the difficulty of determining the most appropriate organ to supervise the work of the Office of Public Information lay in the great diversity of areas with which the Office was concerned, and which were not the sole responsibility of any one organ. The Office was therefore in an awkward situation; no organ wished to assume liability for giving it directives, but everyone expected it to work miracles with limited resources and staff. The Office was prepared to do everything expected of it, subject to its mandate and resources, but it must be given co-ordinated and centralized instructions. In his own view, the Fifth Committee, which had always accepted responsibility for decisions relating to the Office of Public Information in the past, could continue to do so, and where appropriate could ask representatives from other Committees to participate in its discussions. The Secretary-General had indicated his own views on the subject in paragraphs 31-52 of his report. It was the speaker's hope that decisions would be taken as rapidly as possible on all the general policy issues raised in the Secretary-General's

report. He had three matters particularly in mind: the principle of the uniformity and indivisibility of information policies and activities referred to in paragraphs 232-235 of the Secretary-General's report, the principle of the division of labour between the Office of Public Information and national information and education media referred to in paragraph 57, and the principle of the acquisition and replacement of technical equipment outlined in annex I of the addendum to the report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1). Those questions and their financial implications should, if possible, be discussed at the current session. The other matters, including the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, could be examined later if the Committee wished consultations to take place first.

4. Replying to the question raised by the Saudi Arabian representative at the 1447th meeting regarding the comparative cost of maintaining United Nations information centres on the one hand, and using satellites on the other, he said that in 1972 the total cost of the information centres, including salaries, rentals and so forth, would be \$2,823,000, and that satellite use would cost between \$1,780 and \$2,350 for the first 10 minutes and between \$58 and \$120 for each additional minute, depending on the destination region. Assuming that throughout the world there were five meetings per day of an average of eight hours each, the cost of relaying United Nations proceedings by satellite would be \$144,750,000 per annum. The Saudi Arabian representative had asked whether any commercial organizations could be persuaded to defray the cost. For the past two years, the Secretariat had been negotiating with the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium for international recognition of the principle that the United Nations should be entitled to the free use of telecommunications satellites for a prescribed period for its own purposes.

5. In any case, a comparison between the cost of United Nations information centres and the cost of relaying debates in full by satellite was based on false premises. The function of United Nations information centres was not to provide quick summaries of United Nations news but to make available to the local population the basic documentation of the Organization as reference material for information media, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and the general public. It was also their function to ascertain the needs of local information media and provide them with all the required material, and to maintain contact with information media, educational establishments, non-governmental organizations and government departments to stimulate their interest in United Nations activities and deal with their requests. Consequently, satellites could never replace information centres, although they were an important means of communication and the United Nations should not overlook the possibilities they offered. However, it was important to keep a sense of perspective about such new technology and to realize that it could not replace all the other kinds in building public support for the United Nations.

6. Satellite communications had limitations as well. All that satellites did was to transmit sounds and pictures from earth to outer space and back again, covering much larger areas than had been possible before. Admittedly, they offered great advantages as a result, and the Radio and

Visual Services Division of the Office of Public Information was closely interested in them, but at present broadcasts transmitted by satellite could not be received by private individuals directly anywhere, and had to be relayed by radio and television organizations. It was therefore impossible to forgo the intermediaries referred to by the Saudi Arabian representative, and the risk of information being distorted or slanted remained. Moreover, even if the danger of incompetence and bias could be eliminated more easily from national organizations than from the Office of Public Information, there was still the fact that the public would never have the time or the energy to follow all satellite transmissions of United Nations proceedings, and even if it did nothing else, it could still receive only one debate at a time directly.

7. For all those reasons he felt that, in the present circumstances, the policies and procedures laid down by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 52-57 of his report were the most appropriate. Finally, he emphasized that, in the interest of the Office of Public Information and of the Organization as a whole, consideration of the Secretary-General's report should not be deferred any longer; a decision must be taken rapidly, at least as regards the questions of organization and principle.<sup>1</sup>

8. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that the statement just made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had convinced him that the Fifth Committee was competent to consider the question of the policies and activities of the Office of Public Information; he therefore proposed that the Committee should study every aspect of the Secretary-General's report.

9. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for his explanations. He still wondered whether the Secretariat could not increase its efforts to get the commercial or national organizations operating the satellites to give the United Nations free transmission time.

10. He congratulated the Office of Public Information for requesting only slightly more funds than the previous year despite the general rise in prices.

11. He also wished to know if the United Nations information centres were really organized in the most efficient manner for achieving the goals which the Assistant Secretary-General had mentioned in his statement.

12. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) asked whether the proposed regional production bureau in Addis Ababa would strengthen existing public information services of the ECA or compete with them. His delegation would also like to have an answer to the question it had raised at the previous meeting on the training facilities available to staff of the Office of Public Information.

13. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information), replying to the representative of Saudi Arabia, said that the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium was going to consider the question

<sup>1</sup> The complete text of the statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information was circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12.

again in 1972, but the United Nations had not yet been successful in obtaining free transmission time.

14. In answer to the representative of Ghana, he stated that the activities of the production bureau in Addis Ababa were to complement the existing public information activities, not to compete with them. With regard to training, there was no programme as such but there had been some opportunity for training under the Triangular Fellowship Programme.

15. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) recalled that in the general discussion on the budget estimates, his delegation had raised the point that the reluctance on the part of so many Governments to give fuller financial support to the United Nations might be due to the lack of adequate information, on the part of their peoples, about the basic goals and objectives of the Organization, its projects and activities. The popular impression seemed to be that the United Nations was merely a stage where the big Powers put on their political manoeuvres. Little mention was made in the news media of the increasing emphasis the Organization was placing on the problems of economic and social development and to problems related to the well-being of all mankind. His delegation had therefore suggested that that kind of information should be communicated to all the peoples of the world because thereby a more sympathetic public opinion towards the goals of the United Nations would be formed which, in turn, would influence Government policies towards the Organization. The beneficial effects would not be felt in the financial aspects alone; they would ultimately have an impact on the operations and the actual effectiveness of the Organization. A better informed public opinion would prod the Governments of many countries into carrying out many needed and vital projects without delay. If properly informed, the peoples of the developed countries should be convinced that the growth and well-being of developing countries was to everyone's interest, that the increasing poverty of the developing countries was hardly conducive to a climate of stability and growth for the world, and that, strictly in terms of dollars and cents, greater development of developing countries would mean greater demand for the developed countries' products. At the same time, the Office of Public Information should also inform the peoples of developing countries of the United Nations feeling that social and economic development was primarily the responsibility of the countries themselves and that they should carry out the needed reforms and changes to facilitate development.

16. An information effort in the field of social and economic development could not just be an enumeration of facts and statistics; to be effective it must convince, persuade, stir and form public opinion. In that connexion, it would be useful to recall that, as the Secretary-General said in subparagraph 52 (b) of his report, in certain fields, where the Organization itself had, as a whole, taken a definitive and an action-oriented stand, the Office of Public Information could no longer restrict itself to merely neutral stances or statements but must actively identify itself with the universally approved causes and movements. Of course, it was not easy to provide all the peoples of the world with such information; it could not compete with the sensational headlines of certain newspapers, and the Office of Public

Information would have to find a way of putting more drama and popular appeal into the information on the vital but rather unspectacular efforts of the Organization. The Office of Public Information would have to use its ingenuity, personal contact and persuasion to overcome the reluctance of national information organizations to give such information wide dissemination.

17. The Office of Public Information should give top priority to the dissemination of information concerning the implementation of the basic goals and objectives of the United Nations and in its information on economic and social development it should work in close co-operation with the various specialized agencies. If such information was not to lose its impact, it should not be disseminated daily but only when it would be likely to make an impression on public opinion. That information effort could be accomplished mostly within the framework of the Office of Public Information's usual information activities and should not entail additional expense.

18. He paid a tribute to the great work being done by the Office of Public Information, but he expressed the hope that it would give careful consideration to the comments and suggestions made by his delegation.

19. Mr. KRONMANN (Denmark) recalled that the object of the Secretary-General's report on the question under consideration was to take stock of the political, technological and psychological changes and to relate them to the work of the Office of Public Information in order to determine whether either the basic principles and policies which had so far governed its work programmes, or the work programmes themselves, needed to undergo a corresponding development or change. He therefore welcomed the opportunity for a reappraisal of the philosophy behind present and future Office of Public Information activities.

20. The first part of the report of the Secretary-General contained an analysis of the function and role of the Office of Public Information and therefore dealt with United Nations information policy. According to General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, reaffirmed by resolution 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, the basic policy of the United Nations in the field of public information was to promote to the greatest extent possible an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the Organization among the peoples of the world. If informed understanding was to be promoted, the basic principle governing the information policy should be to tell people what to "think about", definitely not "what to think". Hence the main duty of the Office of Public Information was to assist the official national and private information agencies by supplying facts about the goals and activities of the United Nations. To go beyond those boundaries for the benefit of an activist information policy would be tantamount to giving up the principle of objectivity which must be the keyword of the Organization. The only way to give new impetus to the hopes and idealism of the present was to keep alive the idea of objectivity. To replace objectivity by arbitrariness would be detrimental to the Organization.

21. The resolutions in question also stated that the Office of Public Information should not engage in propaganda. That principle must be looked upon as inviolable if the



peoples of the world were not to lose faith in the Organization. That should in no way preclude the undertaking of positive information activities. The United Nations should ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on all the activities of the Organization, whether in the political field or in that of economic and social development, always with the aim of explaining and clarifying. The Organization should present a complete and fair picture of the viewpoints and feelings of its entire membership. That was how his delegation interpreted the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 52 (b) of his report that the Office of Public Information should no longer restrict itself to merely neutral stances or statements but identify itself with universally approved causes and movements.

22. The Secretary-General, in paragraph 57 (i) of his report concluded that the basic principles governing the Office of Public Information, as established by General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI), did not need to be revised, amended or enlarged. The Danish delegation whole-heartedly subscribed to that conclusion in the hope that all delegations could do the same. While there might be general agreement as to the principles guiding United Nations information services, views might differ as to modalities. His delegation felt, however, that States Members could safely continue to leave the matter to the judgement of the Secretary-General, as expressed in the introduction<sup>2</sup> to his annual report on the work of the Organization in 1967.

23. As to the addendum (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1) to the Secretary-General's report, which dealt with specific recommendations and their budgetary implications, his Government had repeatedly expressed its support of the goals and objectives contained in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and of the measures for the mobilization of public opinion in support of it. Being fully aware of the important role played by the Centre for Economic and Social Information as a co-ordinator of information activities undertaken within the United Nations system in support of development, his Government had decided, subject to parliamentary approval, to contribute \$50,000 for each of the financial years 1972/73, 1973/74 and 1974/75 to the activities of the Centre, thus bringing its total contribution to \$150,000. The Danish Government trusted that the objectives of the Second Development Decade would thereby be further advanced. At the conclusion of the three financial years, it expected the activities of the Centre to be financed from the regular budget.

24. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia) said that he shared the views of delegations which had expressed doubts as to the competence of the Fifth Committee to take a decision on the Secretary-General's report on the question under consideration. The Fifth Committee was expected in some way to propound a philosophy to govern the expenditure and activities of the Office of Public Information. That was an undertaking which exceeded the Committee's terms of reference and should be dealt with by some other policy-making body competent to undertake a continuous review

of the political, technical and psychological changes entailed in the activities of the Office of Public Information, with a view to formulating or altering the basic principles and guidelines governing the Office's work programme.

25. Under General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959, a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographical areas and main cultures of the world had been established to lay down and review United Nations information policies and programmes. That Consultative Panel had not produced the results expected but that was because the principle of rotation had not been applied in the selection of its members. His delegation therefore suggested that the Consultative Panel should be enlarged and that its members should be elected by the General Assembly for a fixed period of two to three years, with due regard to competence and the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

26. His delegation wished to express commendation of the achievements and current endeavours of the Office of Public Information which was carrying out a difficult task as well as it possibly could. In particular, it wished to record its satisfaction that the Secretary-General had established, on a permanent basis, a French language unit in the Press and Publications Division of the Office. That unit would provide extremely valuable service to the many French-speaking delegations and would help to redress the balance between the Organization's working languages.

27. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that he would like to explain certain aspects of the text of a proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP/11) which his delegation wished to be included in the report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly on the question under consideration. His delegation had endeavoured to adapt its proposal to that of the representative of the Soviet Union concerning the Consultative Panel on Public Information. The second paragraph of the Canadian text noted operative paragraph 6 of resolution 1405 (XIV), which was worded in a very general way and allowed the Secretary-General to change the number of members of the Consultative Panel or to alter its composition. The two recommendations in the first paragraph of the text related to the acquisition and replacement of equipment and to the proposed establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa. He expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to take a decision on his proposal quite quickly.

28. Mr. LOGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would take note of the extremely interesting statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information; and would make its position known when it had given the statement careful study.

29. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that the total budget of some \$11.2 million requested for the financial year 1972 for the activities for the Office of Public Information reflected the importance which Member States attached to the information services. As the question of the activities of the Office of Public Information was a sensitive issue, it was natural that the Office should be the centre of controversy, but the high quality of its work was none the less to be appreciated.

30. The mass information media depicted the United Nations as a body dealing essentially with political issues

<sup>2</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 1A, paras. 142-147.



and did not stress its role in economic and social affairs. It was in that area that the Office of Public Information could fulfil a necessary task.

31. His delegation supported in principle the proposal to establish a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa. It wondered, however, whether the setting up of a separate bureau was not an expensive undertaking and whether it would not be possible to achieve savings by increasing the financial resources of ECA so that information work could be undertaken within its ambit. That suggestion should, perhaps, be carefully examined by the Committee.

32. As to whether the Committee was competent to deal with policies of the Office of Public Information, his delegation's position was that the work of the Office was of concern to all Committees. It had been suggested that the report of the Secretary-General on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and programmes should be submitted to the Consultative Panel on Public Information established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV). That was not a practical proposition, as the Panel had not met since 1967. To convene the Panel, submit the report to it and request it to report to the Secretary-General, who would thereupon submit a further report to the Fifth Committee, would take considerable time. The Consultative Panel could be convened, but the Fifth Committee should not be prevented from studying the report now before it. Furthermore, the composition of the Consultative Panel should be changed and his delegation therefore formally invited the Secretary-General's attention to that matter.

33. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Canadian proposal to seek the opinion of the Consultative Panel on the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa seemed to contradict the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 8 of its related report (A/8408/Add.4) that the General Assembly should seek the views of the Governments of the countries concerned—which the Secretary-General had not done.

34. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) asked what States were members of the Consultative Panel.

35. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) asked whether the members of the Consultative Panel were experts or representatives of Governments.

36. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) read out the list of States represented on the Consultative Panel and said that its members were generally Permanent Representatives to the United Nations or members of Permanent Missions.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3 – SALARIES AND WAGES (*continued*) (A/8406, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065)

37. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the question asked at the previous meeting by the representative of

Uruguay concerning the current financial position of the Organization, said that, according to established procedure, one week before the mid-month and end-of-month payments were due, the Controller received a report on the current cash balance and on accounts payable and receivable. In the light of that report, the Controller took a decision concerning the source from which the necessary funds should be obtained. The next report would be received on 8 November and only after considering it would he be able to indicate the exact cash position. He could, however, state that the Organization did not at present have sufficient liquid assets to meet the mid-month payroll. However, that was 10 days away and he hoped that by then Member States which had not yet paid their contribution in full would help the Organization to meet its obligations.

38. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that in order to help the Organization to overcome its cash difficulties, the United States would accelerate somewhat the payment of the balance of its 1971 assessment and would pay \$5 million before 15 November. He hoped that that example would be followed by other Governments which had not yet paid the balance of their assessments.

39. It was evident from the current financial situation, whose gravity had been indicated by the Controller, that the United Nations could not continue to expand its activities until it had put its finances in order. It was also clear that the current financial crisis was due not to the fact that some Governments, such as that of the United States, paid their contribution in several instalments—which might, at the very most, cause some inconvenience for the Secretariat and reduce the possibility of earning interest on investments—but to the fact that some Governments refused to pay the part of their assessment which was applicable to expenditures of which they disapproved.

40. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the financial crisis in the United Nations was due to illegal decisions which had been taken in violation of the Charter and for which the United States Government was mainly responsible. The blame for the financial crisis therefore lay not with those delegations which respected the Charter and refused to sanction such illegal decisions, but with those that supported such decisions.

41. The statement by the Controller indicated that the financial situation was very serious, since the United Nations lacked funds to pay its staff. It was therefore unreasonable, in the circumstances, to consider further increases in the staff of the Secretariat. Even when the financial situation returned to normal, any such increase would be unnecessary. Instead of requesting new posts, as was done every year, the Secretary-General should ensure that optimum use was made of existing staff. It was necessary, therefore, to avoid increasing the number of established posts and to eliminate all provisional posts, which were subsequently converted into established posts. There should also be a considerable reduction in the number of outside consultants, the excessive employment of which had been deplored by many delegations, and an effort should be made to reduce temporary staff while increasing the efficiency of the permanent staff.

42. Those considerations had led the Soviet delegation to submit draft resolution A/C.5/L.1065. It was convinced

that the only way to remedy the financial situation of the Organization was to limit administrative expenses to a minimum.

43. Mr. PICK (Canada) asked whether the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned were continuing to pay salaries and wages quoted in United States dollars at the local currency equivalents which had prevailed before the countries in question had revalued their currencies or adopted floating rates. He would also like the representative of the Secretary-General to indicate the advantages and disadvantages—for personnel, for the Administration and for Member States—of the two possible methods of offsetting the effects on salaries of exchange rate instability, that was, the continued payment of local currency equivalents at previously prevailing exchange rates on the one hand, and the incorporation of an exchange-rate factor in the cost-of-living index and therefore in post adjustments. Lastly, he would like to know if the current practice in connexion with that problem was considered to be an *ad hoc* arrangement or a permanent solution.

44. Mr. BROWN (Australia) wished to add a question to those put by the representative of Canada; were the same arrangements made in countries which had devalued their currency as in countries whose currency had been revalued?

45. He recalled that in the statement he had made at the 1427th meeting the Secretary-General, highlighting the financial difficulties of the United Nations, had indicated that if the situation did not improve he would be obliged to introduce restrictive measures in a number of fields, including personnel. In the general discussion, the Australian delegation had said that if the situation was as bad as the Secretary-General had indicated, the Secretary-General should immediately take action to balance the budget and to notify the Committee of the measures he proposed to take, such as reducing staff expenditure by ensuring better utilization of existing staff. In approaching section 3, his delegation had hoped that the Secretary-General might have already indicated his intention to take the necessary restrictive measures. Without wishing to prejudice the results of the negotiations that were being conducted by Mr. Hambro, it would have thought that if the Secretary-General had been prepared to undertake such measures then Member States should encourage him by looking sympathetically at proposals to improve the cash position of the Organization through the retention of budget savings which could be used to replenish the Working Capital Fund. It had considered that the Secretary-General was in the best position to make such proposals. As there had been no indication that the Secretary-General intended to make any such arrangements, the Australian delegation felt that the Committee should take steps to prevent an increase in the deficit which, although not solving, would at least reduce the cash problem.

46. The draft resolution of the Soviet Union had focused attention on some vital elements in the problem, such as the need to improve staff productivity and the relationship of staff numbers to the financial position. Greater emphasis should be placed on that aspect, and the Secretary-General should not merely make a study of the question but should formulate specific proposals. He realized that the adoption

of a draft resolution to that effect would place a strain on the Secretariat and proposed that, to balance that burden, Member States should adopt a generous position with regard to the settlement of the financial problem. In particular, he appealed to the Soviet Union, as author of the draft resolution, to set an example by helping to make good the deficit.

47. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt) pointed out that staff expenditure accounted for 75 per cent of the budget, which sufficed to explain the importance attached to section 3. The expansion of United Nations activities over the years had increased the workload of the Secretariat, but that increase was not sufficient to justify all increases in personnel as the workload was not evenly spread among departments. It was therefore necessary to redeploy existing staff on the basis of the survey undertaken by the Administrative Management Service. It was also essential to improve staff productivity.

48. He noted that the estimates under section 3 for 1972 provided for an increase of 8 million dollars over the amount for the financial year 1971. Part of that increase was due to circumstances outside the Secretary-General's control, but most of it was attributable to the new established posts and reclassifications requested for 1972. On that point, he shared the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 111 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, to the effect that it would be premature to consider the reclassification of posts in advance of the findings of the Administrative Management Service. He also objected to the increase in temporary staff and agreed with the Advisory Committee that experts should be recruited only when the necessary skills could not be found in the Secretariat.

49. The allocation requested in chapter IV for overtime and night differential also seemed excessive, and he thought that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee did not go far enough. He hoped that the survey undertaken by the Administrative Management Service would make it possible to reduce the estimates under that chapter.

50. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replying to the appeal made by the representative of Australia, said that the Soviet delegation had already stated that it was ready to help the Organization to remedy the financial deficit on the basis of the consensus adopted by the General Assembly in 1965<sup>3</sup> and the conclusions formulated by the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, on the understanding that the consensus was compulsory for all States, without exception. He would point out, moreover, that the budgetary deficit had no connexion with the cash difficulties posed by the payment of staff salaries. States which, like the Soviet Union, refused to pay for illegal expenses, had always paid their contribution to staff salaries.

51. Mr. BROWN (Australia), replying to the representative of the Soviet Union, agreed that the problems of the deficit and the cash position were separate, even if related. He

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Nineteenth Session, Plenary Meetings, 1331st meeting, paras. 3 and 4.

sympathized with the principles underlying the Soviet draft resolution but believed this would inevitably place strains on the organization. He had therefore appealed to the Soviet Union because it was author of the draft resolution

to continue to take a positive attitude with regard to the proposals to resolve the deficit problem.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)** (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-4, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11-14, E/5038)

**Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)** (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12)

1. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that he agreed with the views expressed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information on the previous meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12) and the various delegations which thought that the Fifth Committee was competent to deal with questions of substance related to information. There were three reasons for that belief: first, the Committee had dealt with questions related to information from the beginning of the Organization's existence; second, such questions were of concern to a number of the General Assembly's committees and the Fifth Committee could play a useful co-ordinating role in that context, quite apart from the role deriving from its competence in budgetary matters; and, third, all Members of the General Assembly were represented in the Fifth Committee, which was thus fully representative and, if necessary, members of other committees could take part in those of its meetings devoted to information.

2. His delegation thought that the views of a Consultative Panel on Public Information would undoubtedly help the Secretary-General to define and, if necessary, to change United Nations information policies and to evaluate their results. It therefore saw no reason why the Panel established in General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959 should not be revived, on the understanding that the size and composition of its membership would be made to accord with contemporary circumstances and that proposals made on its advice by the Secretary-General would subsequently be submitted to the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly. Such steps, however, should not

delay the Committee's consideration of the report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1) before it.

3. The Secretary-General's report consisted of four parts; a statement of the philosophy underlying the mandate of the Office of Public Information and the principles governing its activities; a description of its organization and current activities; a programme of action comprising numerous suggestions (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), and cost estimates related to various of those suggestions (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1).

4. With regard to principles, the report described clearly the inherent difficulties of defining the objectives of the activity of an intergovernmental information service. As paragraph 33 of the report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1) stated, the aim of such a service must, for purely "political" reasons, consist merely of recording and reporting positions and actions. In the economic and social fields, information activities might, obviously, be less passive and the Office of Public Information could aspire to the provision of very full information on the Organization's work and achievements. Nevertheless, as the Secretary-General had pointed out in subparagraph 52 (c) of his report, care must be taken not to cross the boundary separating information proper from propaganda or promotion for fear of not only encroaching on the principles in which the Office was grounded but also, in the long term, damaging the Organization's interests.

5. That did not mean that the fields specified in paragraph 52, in which the Organization had taken a firm stand, should not be given their proper place in information activities. Nevertheless, the Office of Public Information must continue to draw a clear distinction between an "active" and an "activist" role and its activity must remain essentially objective and informational. It must avoid taking sides and condemning—seeking rather to persuade and convince. In that connexion, his delegation believed that, in the language of the Secretary-General in paragraph 56 of his report, the Office of Public Information, as the service arm of an intergovernmental organization, must clearly proceed with extreme discernment and caution.

6. His delegation also agreed with the reasoning set out in paragraphs 41 to 46 of the report concerning the "supporter" role to which the Office of Public Information should confine itself. That being so, it agreed with the view in subparagraph 57 (i) that the basic principles governing the Office of Public Information as established in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly did not need to be revised, amended or enlarged. It also believed that the remaining conclusions in paragraph 57 should be interpreted in the same spirit.

7. As to the actual description of current activities and organization of the Office of Public Information, his

delegation, which had already expressed its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the establishment of a French Language Unit, welcomed the establishment of the post of Special Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General to the extent that it would allow the highly sensitive formulation of long-range information policy and planning and the constant review and reassessment of existing policies and activities in terms of their effectiveness and "impact". It was extremely important to reach all Member States through the media best suited to their culture and individual needs. He thought that the Office might make available the valuable reference work *Everyman's United Nations* by publishing a new edition or a supplement.

8. As to the suggestions relating to the future programme of action and the budgetary estimates relating to various of those suggestions, he pointed out that, according to the Advisory Committee's related report (A/8408/Add.4), the implementation of the five-year programme proposed by the Secretary-General would, between 1972 and 1976, involve expenditure amounting to more than \$4 million. Having regard to the Organization's financial situation, it could well be asked whether it would be wise to begin implementing such a programme, assuming that there was agreement as to the value of carrying out all or part of it. His delegation's doubts in that connexion were heightened by the fact that not all the practical implications of the suggestions in the Secretary-General's report appeared to have been studied. In particular, it wondered whether the proposal for the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa had been examined with the Member States concerned and whether it would not lead to duplication and encroachment on the competence of various existing bodies.

9. In his statement at the previous meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General had himself proposed the establishment of priorities to reduce the programme to a minimum for the time being. His delegation believed that the Office of Public Information should be given no more than the resources necessary to carry out its current activities. The question of the replacement and modernization of equipment might have to be examined; it would be for the Committee to decide that after seeking technical advice.

10. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) commended the Secretary-General on his comprehensive and lucid report. Many changes had taken place in the structure of the United Nations. Diversification of the Organization's activities had resulted in the emergence of new fields of interests, the number of States Members had almost trebled and modernization of mass communication media allowed all parts of the world the same access to information. All those changes necessitated a thorough review of the activities of the Office of Public Information. He was, however, in full agreement with the guiding criteria and basic principles governing the policies and operations of the Office laid down in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and he concurred with the first conclusion of the Secretary-General, in paragraph 57 of his report, that the basic principles need not be revised. Nevertheless, the increased membership of the United Nations and the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China called for a readjustment of the current operations of the Office of Public Information.

11. It was imperative that all peoples of the world, including the 800 million Chinese, should receive the fullest possible information about the United Nations. In that connexion, it was regrettable that the Office of Public Information's main efforts had not been directed to peoples in all parts of the world, particularly in the case of its visual services. As the Secretary-General had stated in paragraph 157 of his report:

"At its inception . . . , television as a mass medium was confined to a few developed countries whose national broadcasting organizations were both willing and able to pay enough for United Nations television programmes and facilities to make it a viable service . . .".

That situation amounted to virtual discrimination against 95 developing countries which set high hopes on United Nations objectives and activities. While television had become an important information medium, television documentary films were mainly produced in English. As the activities of the Office of Public Information consisted primarily in assisting national and international information media to provide coverage of United Nations work, any plan for visual services must provide for other languages such as French, Spanish and Arabic. If the documentary films produced by the Office were translated into those three languages, 80 Member States would be able to use them. The fact that television had become a dominant mass medium was manifest in the Arab countries.

12. As to the policies to be followed in respect of television, having regard to the Organization's current financial situation, he supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a compromise between the existing system of self-financing and the system applied with regard to press and radio services which were made available to users without charge: the United Nations would continue to charge users in developed countries for its services but, within the limits of its resources, would make them available without charge to developing countries unable to pay for them.

13. With regard to the radio service, his delegation had already referred at the twenty-fourth session (1305th meeting) to the inadequate Arabic broadcasting services and had made suggestions to remedy the situation, some of which had been embodied as conclusions in paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General. Those suggestions had drawn no response from the Office of Public Information and his delegation wished to reaffirm them in the hope that they would be given due consideration. He pointed out that the Arab world was showing increased interest in the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and that the Middle East problem was of profound interest to every Arab, and recapitulated his delegation's suggestions. At the beginning of the current session three more independent Arab States had been admitted to the United Nations and more than one fifth of Member States were Arabic-speaking. The Office of Public Information should, therefore, take those facts into consideration when drawing up its priority programmes. Indeed, progress had already been made as was proved, in particular, by the increased activities of the United Nations Information Centre in Iraq. His Government had increased its contribution to that Centre.

14. He also acknowledged with satisfaction the Office of Public Information's implementation of resolutions adopted by various United Nations organs, including that adopted by the Commission on Human Rights<sup>1</sup> on 15 March 1971 requesting the Secretary-General to give wide publicity to United Nations documents dealing with the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. The *UN Monthly Chronicle*, in its issue of May 1971, had published in full the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.<sup>2</sup> He hoped that the Office of Public Information would continue to disseminate information on the condition of the population in the occupied Arab territories, and that of refugees and displaced persons. It was a known fact that due to pressure exerted by certain influential groups, national information media in some Western States gave only a fragmentary or distorted idea of those conditions. In that connexion, care should be taken to see that there was no racial discrimination or religious prejudice in the recruiting of local staff for the Office of Public Information in New York.

15. With regard to the Canadian proposal made at the 1427th meeting, his delegation felt that the Secretary-General should be asked to revive the Consultative Panel on Public Information and to enlarge its membership.

16. Finally, he wished to know whether it would be in the interest of the Organization to integrate the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information; he wondered whether the two could not coexist and complement one another. He hoped that the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information would be able to clarify that point.

17. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that his delegation attached considerable importance to the question under consideration which was of interest to every Committee, particularly the Fifth Committee which, as a Committee of the whole, was representative of all geographic and political interests. The review and reappraisal of the United Nations information policies and activities should be conducted in an atmosphere of calm and in a body that was able to give equal weight to all aspects of those policies. The Fifth Committee was perhaps the most appropriate for that function. Final decisions with regard to United Nations information policies and activities would have to be taken by the General Assembly but it would be preferable if the Assembly had before it proposals from the Fifth Committee.

18. There might be some advantage in reviving the Consultative Panel established under resolution 1405 (XIV), while changing the membership to reflect the current structure of the Organization. The essential function of the Consultative Panel should be to advise the Secretary-General in the conduct of information activities; it should not assume the role of the General Assembly and issue directives on the revision of information policy. His delegation felt that a panel of experts could be revived if it

was clear that its function was advisory and that it was not intended to define or draw up new information policies. That would not preclude the Panel's making recommendations on the proposed equipment acquisition and replacement programme and the work programme of regional centres contained in the report as had been suggested by the representative of Canada. His delegation had no objection to submitting the proposals in the Secretary-General's report to the Consultative Panel for consideration.

19. The proposals concerning the acquisition and replacement of expensive equipment required careful analysis, bearing in mind the Organization's financial situation.

20. The work plan for the proposed regional production bureau at Addis Ababa would have to be prepared sufficiently in advance if it was to be effective.

21. The basic principles and guidelines established in General Assembly resolutions continued to be satisfactory and it would not be in the best long-term interests of the Organization to adopt an excessively "activist" position. The resources of the Organization were limited and the Office of Public Information should simply complement national and private information media. If the Organization engaged in propaganda it would quickly lose the faith of the people of the world. In view of the present financial crisis, the Office of Public Information should seek to consolidate its information activities, improve its output and make the most of its existing resources. The purpose of the Office should be to record and report rather than to push and promote, to quote the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. It was apparent that there was a crisis of confidence with regard to the United Nations in many important countries; a radical change in the character of the Office of Public Information could have an adverse effect if its reporting left it open to charges of prejudice or double standards. The reporting should convince because of its inherent accuracy rather than any propagandist quality. The Office of Public Information should ensure that its product was of the highest quality and try to make its reports available in all Member States regardless of their social systems. It should be watchful to prevent any slanted or selective use of its material and ensure that the uniformity and indivisibility of United Nations information was preserved. The activities of the Organization should continue to be governed by the principles laid down by the Secretary-General in paragraph 146 of the introduction<sup>3</sup> to his annual report on the work of the Organization in 1967.

22. As to the question of equipment and advanced material, it should be ascertained that there was a sure market for colour television programmes, that the equipment was economic and that the cost of purchase and operation could be paid off quickly. Additional information should be made available to the Committee or the Consultative Panel before any decision was taken on the matter.

23. Mr. LOGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had strengthened his conviction that

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 4, resolution 9 (XXVII)*.

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, agenda item 101, document A/8089*.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 1A*.

the Fifth Committee was not competent to consider the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report and that those recommendations should be carefully examined by the Consultative Panel. As was stated in paragraph 29 of the report, the object was to determine whether the basic principles and policies governing the work programmes or even the work programmes themselves needed to be changed. The Committee had never examined the policies and programmes of the Office of Public Information; as stated in paragraph 20 of the report, the activities of the Office through the years had been the subject of studies and recommendations by several committees and special survey groups. Furthermore, if the Committee had recommended that a Consultative Panel should be established to review United Nations information policies and programmes, it was because it had not felt competent in the matter.

24. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had said that he would welcome clear and firm decisions from the General Assembly. However, the report of the Secretary-General was very vague and incomplete in many respects and the recommendations and proposals had not been sufficiently studied. Paragraph 36 stated that a mechanism outside the framework of the Office of Public Information should be entrusted with the full exploitation of the vast amount of substantive information which had been accumulated within the United Nations family in the last two decades. He wondered what exactly was meant by a mechanism outside the framework of the Office of Public Information; the report gave no indication.

25. The question of the proposed regional production bureau at Addis Ababa had not been examined in sufficient detail. In that connexion, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had drawn the Committee's attention to paragraph 8 of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.4) which indicated that the Secretary-General had not consulted the Governments concerned. The usefulness of the production bureau had not been sufficiently demonstrated and it would be much better to concentrate on co-ordinating the activities of the Office of Public Information with those of other bodies such as UNCTAD, UNIDO and the regional economic commissions. In fact, it appeared from paragraphs 230, 233 and 234 of the report of the Secretary-General that there was much to be done in that connexion to avoid duplication and needless expense.

26. In paragraph 243 of the report of the Secretary-General it was stated that the Centre for Economic and Social Information would revert, effective 1 January 1971, as a division within the framework of the Office of Public Information, but that it would function on a somewhat different basis from that of the Office, because of its specific responsibilities and the fact that its operational programme, for the most part, was funded from voluntary contributions. His delegation wondered why the Centre had been given special terms of reference and how the fact that its programme was financed by voluntary contributions justified differentiation between its functioning and that of the remainder of the Office of Public Information. The question might be put to the Office of Legal Affairs. He also noted from subparagraph 261 (XV) that three years

after the Centre had been set up its tasks had still to be identified.

27. He questioned the usefulness of the youth study programmes in South America and Asia mentioned in paragraph 260 of the report. He also noted that the Centre had brought out a publication on the problems of elderly persons and that the Office of Public Information had published a similar document, and deplored the lack of co-ordination and the resultant waste.

28. The Secretary-General, according to paragraph 261 (XV) of his report, intended to consult Member States as to the desirability of transferring some of the Centre's activities hitherto financed by extrabudgetary funds to a more permanent place on the regular budget. In that connexion, his delegation would merely repeat what it had said at the previous session, namely, that the Centre might cause disorganization of United Nations information activities and that, if it was to go on performing special work it should be financed entirely by means of voluntary contributions and should operate outside the United Nations.

29. His delegation regretted that the report did not go into the question of geographical distribution. Equitable geographical distribution was essential if United Nations information activities were to be improved.

30. The report contained many other recommendations which would have to be examined by a competent body. His delegation had proposed at the 1447th meeting that examination of the report should be entrusted to the Consultative Panel set up for that purpose under General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV). That Panel should also examine the questions and suggestions of the members of the Fifth Committee during the debates. The membership of the Panel might be enlarged to make it more consistent with the present composition of the United Nations. In that way, the Panel could examine all the questions and recommendations of principle and draft conclusions for the Fifth Committee, which would then examine their financial applications.

31. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) found the Secretary-General's report on the question under review disappointing because it failed to take into account past criticism of the quality and purpose of the activities of the Office of Public Information. Little attention was given in the report to the need for producing material which was more carefully prepared and attained the highest standards with respect to content. The basic policy of the Office of Public Information in the future should be to disseminate objective information, and, in that connexion, he fully agreed with the comments of the representative of Australia on the danger of an "activist" approach.

32. His delegation believed that the conclusions reached in paragraph 57 and the recommendations in part C of the report should be discussed in depth by the Committee, which had a dual responsibility with regard to United Nations information activities, namely, to oversee the total work in the information field and to consider the budgetary implications of new and ongoing proposals. In that connexion, his delegation did not approve the five-year equipment replacement and modernization programme

which would cost, at 1971 prices, \$1.6 million. Nor could it approve the expenditure in 1972 of \$307,500 under the same heading, particularly since a large part of that expenditure would be for colour television cameras and auxiliary equipment which, at the present time, would be largely directed to North American audiences. While some new equipment in the Office of Public Information might be desirable, it would be wise, during the present period of financial stringency, to approve only those expenditures which were absolutely essential. The proposed acquisition and replacement programme should, therefore, be deferred for at least another year.

33. His delegation did not see any justification for the proposal to establish a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, since such a bureau would compete with the information unit in ECA. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that before a decision was taken on that subject, the Governments of the region should be asked to express their views.

34. Regarding the appropriation of \$39,000 requested in 1972 for the publication in French of *Objective: Justice*, it felt that the amount in question should be absorbed within the existing budget estimates.

35. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information), replying to the question raised by the representative of France, confirmed that an addendum to the publication *Everyman's United Nations* was in press.

36. Turning to the questions raised by a number of delegations about colour television, he stated that in 1967 the Fifth Committee had approved the purchase of the first colour television camera, which had been charged to the regular budget. Since then two more cameras and two video tape recorders had been acquired through a special fund based on North American revenue. The existing equipment, however, which had been purchased over 15 years previously, had broken down, and the question before the Committee was whether the unusable cameras should be replaced by cameras with colour units or cameras with black and white units.

37. The Office of Public Information proposed replacing the old cameras with colour cameras because the purpose of the United Nations colour television operations was to provide information and documentary programmes to television organizations throughout the world and, for some

time past, all the requests from North America had been for colour programmes. Furthermore, in 1970 and 1971, two thirds of the requests for satellite operations to Europe and Asia had been for programmes in colour, and more than three fourths of the revenue earned by UNTV from its news services had come from its colour operations. That trend could be expected to increase in the future. It should also be recalled that more than 20 countries outside the North American continent could now televise programmes in colour and that their number was growing rapidly. Without adequate colour equipment the Office could not supply the news services required at the present time and its revenue would decrease. It should not be forgotten either that colour cameras made it possible to produce black and white programmes for the television stations not yet equipped for colour, whereas the black and white cameras could not supply a colour picture. In those circumstances, the Office felt that it would be injudicious to invest in black and white equipment.

38. Turning to the question raised by the representative of Iraq, he thought that it might be helpful if he reviewed the background of the Centre for Economic and Social Information. In 1963, the importance of economic and social information had been recognized and a separate unit had been set up for the purpose of disseminating the information in that field. Subsequently that unit had become a division of the Office of Public Information under a director. The Centre, which had been financed through voluntary contributions, had then become a common service, within the framework of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, from 1 February 1970 to 1 January 1971, when it had been re-established as a separate division of the Office of Public Information. The Secretary-General had intended to hold consultations with all concerned but had not had time to do so. He hoped to benefit from the debate on the subject in the Fifth Committee.

39. With regard to the question of the representative of the Soviet Union regarding relations between the activities of the Office of Public Information at Headquarters and the information activities carried on by UNCTAD or UNIDO, he said that the relevant information could be found in paragraphs 235 and 236 of the Secretary-General's report, which he read out.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-4, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389, A/C.5/1390, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11-14, E/5038)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)* (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12)

1. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) said he wished to elaborate on his reply at the previous meeting to the questions raised by the representatives of Iraq and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the Centre for Economic and Social Information. He had personally recommended the enlargement of the Economic and Social Information Unit of the Office of Public Information into a division in order to provide the framework for a more effective dissemination of information in the economic and social fields. His intention had been that the new division should act as a central point for maintaining substantive contacts with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with other United Nations bodies and agencies, on the one hand, and with the media divisions of the Office of Public Information on the other. But the new division should not become a producing division, for its role was to determine the priorities for the media divisions, and in particular, for the activities to be undertaken to further the purposes of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

2. In February 1970, the Secretary-General, feeling it was necessary for the Centre for Economic and Social Information to undertake activities of a promotional character which did not fall within the mandate of the Office of Public Information, had transferred the Centre to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. On 1 January 1971, he had decided that the Centre should revert to the Office of Public Information; however, responsibility for determining the Centre's policies and work programmes had been assigned to a special interdepartmental committee under the chairmanship of the Chef de Cabinet. The

Secretary-General had accepted some recommendations of the Administrative Management Service concerning the manning table of the Centre and wished to give further thought to the matter as a whole.

3. He (Mr. Hamid) emphasized that, in his opinion, under the existing constitutional arrangements pertaining to the Office of Public Information, there could be only one Office of Public Information, as established under General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, and functioning under the terms of reference laid down by the Assembly in those two resolutions. Being part and parcel of information as a whole, information conducted by the Centre for Economic and Social Information must be governed by paragraph 4 of annex I of resolution 13 (I) which provided that, subject to the general authority of the principal organs of the United Nations, responsibility for the formulation and execution of information policy should be vested in the Secretary-General and under him in the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information. There was no authority for drawing a distinction between one type of information and another. It was sometimes said that economic and social information was not political; in point of fact nothing was more political than economics. In the last analysis all politics was a question of how national wealth was to be created, distributed and utilized. Stated in the abstract, the desirability of economic and social development was something on which everyone was agreed, but so was everyone agreed on the need to eliminate *apartheid*, colonialism and racial discrimination. Yet, the methods of achieving those goals were still controversial. Should the elimination of *apartheid* be achieved by force or through dialogue and persuasion? Should national income be increased through socialism, nationalization or free enterprise? For all those reasons, all United Nations information must be based on the same set of principles and one uniform policy. To give the Department of Economic and Social Affairs an information service of its own would logically lead to the establishment of an information service for the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs to promote the Disarmament Decade; and the Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self Governing Territories could similarly ask for a separate office for itself to promote decolonization.

4. The General Assembly had decreed that there should be only one information policy and one Office of Public Information. It was, of course, open to the General Assembly to eliminate the one central office and replace it by several specialized offices attached to departments. Such a decision required a full-scale discussion of all the implications involved. Only the General Assembly could alter or revise the terms of reference it had assigned the Office of Public Information in its resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI).

5. The Office of Public Information expressed its gratitude to Governments which had manifested their interest in information in selected fields by providing voluntary contributions. However, those Governments would undoubtedly be the last to expect that such contributions entitled them to alter the information policies or to promote their individual interests and viewpoints. Therefore, voluntary contributions could not be allowed to provide an argument for compartmentalizing public information.

6. In order to leave no room for any possible misunderstanding, it was necessary to determine precisely what the issues were. It was first necessary to state what was not at issue, namely, the need for a more active information activity in support of the goals agreed upon and established by the United Nations for the Second United Nations Development Decade, as defined in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1265 (XLIII) and 1357 (XLV) and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2411 (XXIII), and restated by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 52 and 57 of his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1).

7. The real issue was: could the need for greater information in the economic and social fields be accommodated within the existing mandates and structure of the Office of Public Information or did it call for some new set of principles and some new machinery, outside and beyond that which had been established by the General Assembly in resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI)?

8. In his view, there was only one answer to that question, namely, that all information, no matter of what kind, could and must be conceived and conducted in conformity with the principles established by the General Assembly in the relevant resolutions. That principle was vital to the very existence and usefulness of the Office of Public Information and, in that connexion, he fully agreed with the observations made by the representative of Australia and supported by the representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States, Denmark and others. There were two basic principles which were as valid and essential today as they had been a quarter of a century earlier which the General Assembly must recognize and reaffirm, namely, that the United Nations depended for its success upon an informed public and understanding and support of its aims and activities, and that the process of building such understanding and support should be conducted with objectivity, impartiality, universality and central direction and control.

9. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) supported by Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) and Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) requested that the statement of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information should be issued in English as a press release.

*It was so decided.*

10. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) congratulated the Assistant Secretary-General on having completed the review and reappraisal of the United Nations information policies and activities which was the subject of the report by the Secretary-General before the Committee.

11. His delegation accepted the general conclusions set forth by the Secretary-General in his report to the effect

that the basic principles which had guided the Office of Public Information had stood the test of time. It was, however, necessary for the Office to interpret those principles with flexibility in order to take full account of the changing role of the United Nations and its family of organizations. The United Nations could no longer be satisfied to adopt a passive attitude which did not fully accord with the dynamic image which the Organization had assumed in many fields. The problem facing the Office of Public Information was not one of basic principles or of conflict between the need to record and report or promote and encourage. The Office of Public Information had failed to respond effectively to the new challenges resulting from the development of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and its organizations. As a result, it was subjected to great pressure to allow the setting up of different new information units designed to fill the gap in that area. The problem had not been examined in depth in the Secretary-General's report, which offered no specific proposals on the subject.

12. The report also failed to bring into focus the exact relationship between the Office of Public Information and other units engaged in economic and social information activities. It did not mention similar studies undertaken in the past in the economic, social and human rights fields, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1176 (XLI), or the related reports by the Secretary-General<sup>1</sup> and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination<sup>2</sup> or a study by UNITAR. If the members of the Fifth Committee had had details of the previous studies, they would have been well placed to pass judgement on the administrative and financial implications of the economic and social information activities.

13. The fact that economic and social information and information on human rights should be given as much prominence as political information was not open to question. In resolution 2567 (XXIV), the General Assembly had drawn attention to the need to mobilize public opinion. It was essential for the Committee to ensure that policy directives were translated into action to produce well-formulated and closely integrated programmes in which waste and duplication were minimal.

14. The establishment of the Centre for Economic and Social Information was an attempt to respond to the needs of the Second United Nations Development Decade by co-ordinating activities in that field. Those Governments which, by their generosity, had contributed to the dissemination of the Organization's ideals should be commended. The Secretariat had a duty to respond to that generosity by formulating well-articulated programmes. The description of the Centre's programmes and activities in paragraphs 242 to 260 of the Secretary-General's report and the supplementary information in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 were very worrying indeed. In the first place, it was not clear who really controlled the Centre. The fact that it had moved back and forth between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of Public Information seemed to indicate a conflict of opinion as to where

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 20, document E/4394.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Forty-fifth Session, annexes, document E/4495.*

it should be. There was a lack of clarity as to the relationship between the activities of the Centre and those of other bodies. The interdepartmental committee established by the Secretary-General, as stated in paragraph 244 of his report, and the Programme Committee did not appear to be doing a worth-while job. Furthermore, establishment of the Centre had not led to a shift to it of responsibility in that field from UNDP, the Office of Public Information or the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. There was much duplication and overlapping in such areas as publications, film production and television and radio programmes.

15. The Fifth Committee must live up to its responsibilities and take a policy decision. The expenditure incurred for the activities of the Centre amounted to several million dollars, much of which was spent with little or no guidance from a legislative organ. Having regard to the nature of the Centre's activities, the Economic and Social Council was unquestionably the body which should assume the responsibility for its programmes. That being so, the Centre should be completely integrated with the Office of Public Information—which would thus be able to render better service.

16. The Office of Public Information must itself be accorded importance commensurate with the difficult task it was required to perform. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information must be given all necessary power and responsibility and Member States should take a continuing interest in the affairs and problems of the Office. The Office itself must be thoroughly reorganized. Its present structure, described in paragraphs 141 to 206 of the Secretary-General's report, was difficult to understand and the picture which emerged was that its work suffered from fragmentation and a lack of clarity. For example, the Central Services Section provided facilities and services to representatives of television, film and radio organizations at Headquarters and at United Nations information centres. Yet the Policy and Programme Section, the Information Support Section and the Non-Governmental Organizations Section all seemed to have similar functions. The review and reappraisal of the activities of the various services struck a mainly optimistic note and the nomenclature itself was confusing.

17. The proper functioning of the Office of Public Information was closely related to the equipment which it used and his delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals for the modernization of that equipment, which became obsolete rapidly as a result of the constant progress of technology. It would, however, be imprudent to invest too much money in colour television equipment. He saw no reason to request a group of consultants to study the question of replacing equipment—the Consultative Panel should be able to do that itself. It was in that light that his delegation would consider the relevant aspects of the Canadian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11).

18. As the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had pointed out in its related report (A/8408/Add.4, para. 10), the Secretary-General had not costed a number of recommendations in the report. The proposal to establish reference libraries discussed in paragraphs 206 to 214 of the Secretary-General's report could be very expensive and needed careful consideration. Fur-

thermore, the project would require the participation of the specialized agencies at the country level because the Office of Public Information itself was certainly not equipped to carry out the project.

19. The establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, referred to in paragraphs 215 to 236 of the report of the Secretary-General, raised a number of problems. It was not clear how a bureau consisting of four people could be more effective than the existing information service of ECA or the existing United Nations information centres. It was also hard to visualize how duplication between the various services could be avoided. If the objective of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat, whose conclusions<sup>3</sup> the Secretary-General had quoted, was to strengthen the information services of the regional economic commissions, it would be wiser to pool resources at the regional level and to regroup the information centres, as that Committee recommended. His delegation supported the idea of increasing the manpower and monetary resources of ECA to enable it to establish a bureau, as proposed by the Secretary-General, which would be completely under its control. That would give the Commission's information services a greater capacity to undertake the new programmes referred to in the Secretary-General's report, in keeping with the recommendation of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat and the other numerous recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It was not necessary to request the Consultative Panel to study the question, as the Canadian representative had proposed at the 1447th meeting. It was from the Governments of the countries concerned that the General Assembly should seek advice, as the Advisory Committee had suggested in paragraph 8 of its related report.

20. His delegation considered that the *UN Monthly Chronicle* should continue to be published in French and Spanish, there being no *Yearbook of the United Nations* in those languages.

21. As to the reduction of the volume of press releases, his delegation approved of the way in which the Secretary-General analysed the problem in his report and agreed with him that as stated in paragraph 91 "one fundamental requisite must continue to be that of impartiality and uniformity". It was regrettable, however, that the procedure proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 93 to 96 should have encountered opposition not from the General Assembly but from the United Nations Correspondents Association. That opposition was understandable, but as the Joint Inspection Unit had pointed out in its report (see A/8319 and Corr.1, para. 231), it was for the Assembly alone to decide which meetings or topics should be the subject of press releases.

22. The General Assembly should recognize that the United Nations was not alone responsible for the dissemination of information in the economic and social field. That task must be a joint one and all concerned should pool their efforts and resources in order to minimize costs and maximize efficiency. For that purpose, the General Assem-

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 74, document A/7359.

bly should draw the Secretary-General's attention to the serious weaknesses which persisted in the planning, implementation and co-ordination of economic and social information programmes and should invite him to redouble his efforts to eliminate those weaknesses. It should ask him to take immediate steps to integrate the Centre for Economic and Social Information with the Office of Public Information, so that it would become the central focus for economic and social information activities. The General Assembly should further request the Governing Council of UNDP to maintain its information activities at a reasonable level and to entrust to the Office of Public Information and the various executing agencies any expansion contemplated in that field. UNDP funds should be used primarily for undertaking, at the country level, projects and programmes of direct benefit to developing countries. Regarding UNCTAD and UNIDO, the General Assembly should ask the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of Public Information adequately met their needs, which would make it unnecessary for them to expand their own information units. It should be noted that the Trade and Development Board had decided to postpone action on certain proposals before it until the General Assembly had completed its consideration of the Secretary-General's report. No tangible results would be achieved, however, without an administrative reform of the Office of Public Information itself. The General Assembly should therefore draw the Secretary-General's attention to the urgent need to reorganize the Office and to make it truly one of the chief departments of the Secretariat.

23. It should also be recognized that in certain areas such as colonialism, racism, *apartheid*, human rights and all questions of war and peace the Organization bore primary responsibility because of its unique political position in the United Nations system. He entirely disagreed with the Delegations which referred repeatedly to the dangers of the Office of Public Information engaging in propaganda. That was an imaginary problem. In any case, such issues could not be settled by a consultative panel. Moreover, in his statement at the 1449th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12), the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had confirmed that the Office now received from various organs broad policy decisions which it had to implement as best it could.

24. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that he considered the Fifth Committee fully competent to deal with information questions since it had been dealing with those questions since the earliest days of the United Nations and since, in any case, it determined the broad outlines of United Nations information activities by the financial control it exercised. He considered information one of the most complex activities and one of the hardest to define; technical factors played a vital role in it.

25. Regarding the activities of the Office of Public Information, he fully supported the basic principles stated in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI), as recapitulated in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Secretary-General's report, and he thought that those principles should continue to inspire United Nations policy in the field of information.

26. Since the definition of the terms of reference of the Office of Public Information, however, the United Nations

had undergone considerable changes in its structure and activities; the membership had doubled and questions of economic and social development occupied an increasingly large place in its activities. The time, therefore, seemed ripe for revising United Nations information policy and taking steps to ensure uniformity in its activities in that field. He therefore proposed that the output of publications—*UN Monthly Chronicle*, *Yearbook of the United Nations*, leaflets, pamphlets, and others—should be maintained at its present level and that the press release service should be maintained as it was. It would be helpful to have information on the results achieved by that service in the different regions of the world.

27. With regard to television services, he supported the Secretary-General's proposal that those services should be paid for by the developed countries which could afford them and should be provided free of charge to the developing countries. He thought it would be necessary to carry out a survey of colour television throughout the world in order to determine how useful it would be to the United Nations. He had doubts of a technical nature about the various colour television processes used in the world and would like to have fuller information on the subject.

28. He considered that regional and subregional conferences should be held periodically to develop the regional activities of the non-governmental organizations, as the Secretary-General suggested in paragraph 175 of his report. He also favoured the programme of fellowships and seminars organized by the Office of Public Information, the effectiveness of which was clearly demonstrated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 183 of his report. Efforts should be made to develop education respecting the United Nations at all levels. The establishment of reference libraries, referred to in paragraphs 207 to 214 of the report seemed to him an effective way of achieving the objectives of the Office of Public Information. He thought that the proposal to set up a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa was a valid one, which might be extended to Asia and Latin America, and which merited careful consideration.

29. He approved in principle of the procedure suggested in paragraphs 237 to 241 of the Secretary-General's report regarding regional meetings of centre directors, which was a further instance of the present trend towards regionalization. He also favoured the Centre for Economic and Social Information, whose main task, in his view, was to promote the involvement of leadership and youth in development.

30. He agreed with the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information that the time had come to review the activities of the Office of Public Information in order to decide whether its terms of reference, as defined a quarter of a century earlier, were still valid and to lay down new guidelines reaffirming or amending those terms of reference. The Committee's decision on that matter should not be dictated solely by financial considerations, since the information budget amounted to only 5 per cent of all expenditures. The best course would be to postpone the decision until 1972, in order that the question would receive all the attention it merited. The Canadian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11) seemed a sound one, provided that, when the Consultative Panel was reconstituted, the remarks

made during the debate by the representatives of India, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania concerning its composition were taken into account. It might be possible to set up, on the basis of the precedent established by General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII) of 26 November 1957, a panel of 20 government representatives instead of the six proposed in the resolution, appointed in a personal capacity by the Secretary-General on the basis of their professional competence in the subject and representative of the various geographical areas and main cultures of the world. Those members might be chosen from among the information experts on the staffs of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. The Panel of experts should carry out a review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities and submit a report making recommendations on the subject. That report, together with the comments of the Secretary-General, would be submitted to the Fifth Committee before the start of the twenty-seventh session. The Committee might also consult the Association of Press Correspondents to the United Nations which could give it valuable advice.

31. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that the debate in the Fifth Committee showed clearly that the activities of the Office of Public Information were of special interest to Member States, and particularly to the developing countries, which lacked the resources and the personnel to cover the activities of the United Nations on the spot and had to rely on the Office of Public Information.

32. Several delegations, including his own, had said that, in their opinion, the Fifth Committee was competent to discuss the policies and activities of the Office of Public Information. The statements of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had confirmed that the Fifth Committee had the necessary competence to consider the question in all its aspects, financial and political. Moreover, if the subject was discussed simultaneously by different bodies, the conclusions drawn might not be identical, in which case the Fifth Committee would be faced with a delicate problem of co-ordination.

33. With regard to the Consultative Panel, he regretted that greater use had not been made of its services. The Panel should be revived as soon as possible and resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959, under which the General Assembly had created the Panel, might be supplemented by a provision whereby the Panel would be convened at regular intervals. Moreover, by virtue of the same resolution it was the function of the Consultative Panel to advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of policies adopted by the General Assembly, not to advise on what policy the Assembly should adopt. To submit the Secretary-General's proposals to the Panel, as had been suggested, would amount to retrenching the authority of the Fifth Committee. Moreover, the Secretary-General's report had been placed before the Panel in its original form and since then account had been taken of the views of Member States, as reflected in the debates on public information in the General Assembly and other organs. There was therefore no need for further consultation with the Panel.

34. As everyone was aware, the Committee had not had time to consider the Secretary-General's report at the previous session. At the current session, when the report

had been submitted in time, some delegations were attempting to postpone its consideration. If the Committee failed to take a decision on the report at the current session, it would have shirked its responsibilities.

35. His delegation had no objection to the Consultative Panel being retained, provided it was expanded to take into account the increase in the membership of the United Nations and provided the Fifth Committee decided that the Panel would meet as often as was necessary for the fulfilment of its functions. Furthermore, implementation of the policies of the Office of Public Information in their entirety should be within the Panel's purview, which would render superfluous the interdepartmental committee responsible for the activities of the Centre for Economic and Social Information.

36. His delegation had been pleased to note that the main source of revenue of the Office of Public Information was from colour television material. It would be a mistake to invest in black and white equipment at the present stage when it was bound to become rapidly obsolete, while colour television equipment could be used also to produce black and white films, thereby catering to all requirements.

37. With regard to the regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, the Committee should hear the point of view of the African countries which it would serve. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had already stated his opinion and it would be useful if the representatives of the other African countries concerned would do so, in order that the Committee could come to a decision.

38. His delegation considered that there should be a unified approach towards information policies, namely, that all aspects of information activities should be given equal treatment. In order to avoid the proliferation of information services, there had to be central control of United Nations policies and activities in the field of information. The question of indivisibility and central control required the urgent attention of the Fifth Committee, which should take a decision on that subject at the current session.

39. If the Office of Public Information was to attain its objectives, it must be provided with the necessary equipment and facilities. The United Nations might not have been in its present financial position if it had enjoyed the support of public opinion throughout the world. Consequently, any reduction in the activities of the Office of Public Information, far from improving the financial situation of the United Nations, would only aggravate it, since there would be no body of informed public opinion to exert moral pressure on behalf of the United Nations. His delegation therefore endorsed the conclusions in paragraph 57 of the Secretary-General's report and was favourably disposed towards the recommendations in paragraphs 231 to 236, paragraph 261 (i) to (ix), and the financial implications of those proposals set forth in annex (II) to document A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1.

40. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that the Secretary-General's report dealt with some strictly professional matters which should be studied by experts. The Fifth

Committee was not the appropriate body to examine all aspects of the information policies of the United Nations, although it could take decisions on certain financial questions. For those reasons, his delegation supported the proposal to convene as soon as possible the Consultative Panel on Public Information. The Consultative Panel should consist of experts representing various geographical regions and its composition should be broadened. Its main task would be to evaluate the proposals in the Secretary-General's report and to submit recommendations to the Fifth Committee, which would then be in a position to decide on the various proposals. His delegation was convinced that the delay occasioned by that procedure would enable the Committee to take more appropriate decisions.

41. During the debate, several delegations had touched upon the links between the Office of Public Information and the national news media. His delegation considered that the Office of Public Information could not replace the national news media in the dissemination of information on United Nations activities; it should play a supporting role with regard to national media. On the other hand, the Governments of Member States should take all necessary steps to encourage national news media to publicize the principles, aims and achievements of the United Nations. In view of its limited financial and manpower resources, the Office of Public Information could not adequately reach all countries in all regions of the world. It should not be asked to perform the impossible, although that did not mean that there was no room for streamlining and economy in the field of public information. His delegation was convinced that the Office of Public Information could make more effective use of the resources made available to it through better co-ordination of activities and avoidance of duplication and excessive expenditure.

42. As far as technical improvements were concerned, his delegation was not against the replacement of used equipment, but considered that the proposals to buy new equipment should be studied carefully. It also had reservations with regard to the replacement and modernization programme for technical equipment, which would cost over \$1.6 million, and to the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa. In that respect, his delegation shared the opinion of the Advisory Committee regarding the need to have the views of African Governments before taking any decision (A/8408/Add.4, para. 8).

43. There was no need to change the terms of reference of the Office of Public Information, since they constituted a sufficiently broad basis for the implementation of United Nations information policies.

44. Lastly, his delegation saw no need for the Office of Public Information to go beyond purely information activities. The information it disseminated should be objective and should reflect the priorities laid down in the Charter.

45. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that, in the view of her delegation, the Fifth Committee was competent to consider the Secretary-General's report; she had considerable sympathy, however, for the proposal put forward by the representatives of Canada and the Soviet Union that the recommendations in part C of the report (A/C.5/1320/

Rev.1) should be referred to the Consultative Panel before they were considered by the Committee.

46. In view of the changes which had taken place since the establishment of the Office of Public Information in 1946, particularly the increase in membership and the technological advances, it was necessary to stand back and look at the problems and practices of the Office of Public Information.

47. At the previous session, her delegation had stated that it attached great importance to the fundamental statutes governing the information activities of the United Nations. She therefore welcomed the endorsement of that view by the Secretary-General in part A of his report. Her delegation entirely agreed with the conclusion set out in paragraph 57 (i), that the basic principles governing the Office of Public Information, as established by General Assembly resolution 13 (I) and reaffirmed by General Assembly resolution 595 (VI), did not need to be revised, amended or enlarged. Those principles provided clearly that propaganda must be avoided. In that connexion, she supported the views expressed by the representative of Denmark at the 1449th meeting about the importance of objectivity and balance in the work of the Office of Public Information. In order to preserve the objectivity which was its greatest asset, the Office had to steer a course between actively identifying itself with certain universally approved causes and movements and mobilizing world public opinion, and at the same time eschewing propaganda. In the judgement of her delegation, the Secretary-General's report, and in particular paragraph 52 in its entirety, showed the basis on which the Office of Public Information managed to achieve that balance. Her delegation also endorsed the view that the Office should supplement existing information services rather than seek to replace them.

48. All members of the Committee would no doubt agree that the information activities of the United Nations should be fully co-ordinated and subject to central control. She hoped that the organizational changes proposed in relation to the Centre for Economic and Social Information would help to strengthen that co-ordination and thus provide effective support for the Second United Nations Development Decade. In that connexion, her delegation was grateful to the Secretariat for the additional information provided about the activities of the Centre, UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNDP. That information suggested that there was a tendency on the part of various information units to act independently, without too much regard for action elsewhere within the United Nations system—action, moreover, which was also financed by Member States. In the view of her delegation, fragmentation of effort could only reduce the impact of information activity and must raise doubts within the Committee about whether the United Nations was getting value for money. Her delegation would support any decisions the Committee might take to encourage greater co-ordination.

49. She thought that the proposals concerning a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa and concerning colour television should be referred to the Consultative Panel. She agreed with the Advisory Committee and previous speakers that it was important to have the opinion of the countries which such a centre would serve. As far as equipment was



concerned, the Office of Public Information should keep abreast of technical developments, but the Organization's financial position should also be taken into account. The solution could be a more comprehensive self-financing plan, and that was a matter which the Consultative Panel could consider. In that connexion, her delegation did not find the arguments in paragraphs 157 and 158 of the Secretary-General's report conclusive. The charges fixed by the Organization should be based on the services provided rather than on the identity of the consumer so as to avoid making arbitrary distinctions between those who could afford the services and those who could not. Her delegation believed, as a matter of principle, that any United Nations support for the television networks of developing countries should be provided through its technical assistance programmes.

50. Regarding Office of Public Information publications, her delegation was in substantial agreement with the detailed proposals of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the *Yearbook of the United Nations* (see A/8362). Close attention needed to be paid to the costs and revenues of the *UN Monthly Chronicle*, which was incurring increasing losses.

51. In its press releases, the United Nations should do nothing to make the task of correspondents more difficult; it was for the press itself, not Member States, to say what was and what was not newsworthy. Nevertheless, the arguments advanced in paragraphs 73-97 of the Secretary-General's report did not seem to be wholly consistent with the conclusion reached in paragraph 98. Press releases were intended for the press, but since over half of them were in fact used by delegations, the latter should perhaps limit their demands in that regard.

52. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) said that the guidelines approved by the General Assembly for information services at the time the Office of Public Information had been established were still valid; the Secretary-General was therefore still responsible for the formulation and execution of information policy. Similarly, the composition of the Consultative Panel and the scheduling at its meetings were still for the Secretary-General to decide. The Secretary-General had stated as the first of his conclusions set out in paragraph 57 of his report that "the basic principles governing the Office of Public Information . . . do not need to be revised, amended or enlarged". His delegation felt that that stand by the Secretary-General should guide the Committee in its deliberations and in any decision it adopted. His delegation was prepared to assume its share of the responsibility for such a decision at the present or—preferably—the following session.

53. With regard to resources, he noted that the Office of Public Information's percentage share of the total budget had been substantially reduced in recent years in comparison with other United Nations activities. There was reason to doubt that the Office of Public Information had the means required to meet the demands made on it at a time when the Organization was becoming increasingly universal and was undertaking activities in many new fields. It was therefore important to consider to what extent the resources of the Office of Public Information must be strengthened, how its activities could be rationalized, and how they could be made more effective and co-ordinated better with the activities of other United Nations bodies. The Secretary-General's report provided a good basis for consideration of those questions. His delegation also wished to stress that the Office of Public Information should have the capacity to produce material which in quality and in other respects was the equal of that of other information sources. The Office should also take into account the standard of knowledge and the attitude towards the United Nations of the public to which information was directed in different countries. That approach might be facilitated by inquiries carried out by national public opinion institutes.

54. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for periodic meetings between the heads of different information offices at the central and regional level to which the Secretary-General referred in paragraphs 237 to 241 of his report. It would prefer, however, that such meetings should be more frequent and that there should be more opportunities for meetings at the regional level between United Nations information centres and national information offices.

55. His delegation felt that the Committee should take a decision at once on at least some of the proposed measures for strengthening the Office of Public Information, although others might call for further discussion.

56. Lastly, he announced that his Government would respond to the Secretary-General's appeal of 15 June 1971 by making a voluntary contribution of \$50,000 to the Centre for Economic and Social Information. That contribution was Sweden's expression of support for the goals of the International Development Strategy, and his Government hoped that in years to come Member States would recognize the importance of the work being done by the Centre and that funds would be made available for it under the regular budget.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)** (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-4, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376 to 1378, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 to A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11-16, E/5038)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)* (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12)

1. Mr. FOSSEN (Norway) said that the surest foundation on which the Secretary-General could base his information policy was the Charter of the United Nations, which, however, could provide him with only very general guidance.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, and 1335 (XIII) of 13 December 1958, had laid down guidelines which, as stated in paragraph 46 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), continued to be valid. However, the Secretary-General recommended that those guidelines should be given a flexible interpretation in terms of information output and programmes. Certainly, the Office of Public Information should have some latitude with regard to quantity, selection of media and even, to a certain degree, priorities for certain programmes. But if, as paragraph 48 of the Secretary-General's report seemed to indicate, the term "flexible interpretation" related also to the nature of information activities, one might question whether the basic guidelines would not be vitiated.

3. Paragraph 50 of the Secretary-General's report enumerated a long list of the annual demands on the Office of Public Information by the General Assembly and by other United Nations organs. That list illustrated very clearly what might happen to the Office if it were to depart from the basic guidelines laid down by the General Assembly; in the opinion of his delegation, the need was, perhaps, more for restraint on the part of United Nations bodies than for the Office of Public Information to go beyond neutral stances or statements.

4. His delegation had never subscribed to the view that the work of the Office of Public Information was of a low standard. Taking into account the fact that substantially larger appropriations for the Office were unlikely in the near future, and also taking into account the political limitations placed upon it, the question that arose was whether it was possible to modernize and topicalize its services. Even a tenfold increase in the budget of the Office of Public Information would not make it possible to execute regional information programmes which would take into account all relevant factors.

5. His delegation wondered whether the Office of Public Information could not to a larger degree utilize its available resources to activate national governmental and non-governmental organizations, which were in a better position to promote a favourable attitude—for instance, departments of education, non-governmental organizations, information media and political organizations.

6. His delegation was of the opinion that the General Assembly should again emphasize the duty of Member States with regard to information; in that context, consideration should be given to whether the Office of Public Information could finance a number of travelling experts.

7. He noted that the publications and other material produced by the Office of Public Information did not always meet the standards required in modern information.

8. His delegation supported in principle the Secretary-General's recommendations concerning the programme of replacement and modernization of television and radio equipment (A/1320/Rev.1/Add.1, annex I), but if a majority of the General Assembly could not agree, his delegation would accept that with regret.

9. An interesting question was to what extent the Office's information material was being used. The Office might co-operate with specialized national bodies in carrying out investigations of the public's knowledge of and attitude towards the United Nations and might base its information service on the results. Financial resources for such research could be raised on the local level.

10. His delegation noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraphs 237 to 241 of his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1) for more conferences between directors of information centres; it was important to arrange conferences on a regional level which national governmental and non-governmental information offices might attend.

11. He considered the Centre for Economic and Social Information to be an interesting experiment. His delegation believed in principle that the Centre's activities should be financed out of the regular budget. However, in view of the



role which the Centre would play in the Second United Nations Development Decade, the Norwegian Government was prepared, subject to parliamentary approval, to contribute the sum of \$50,000 to the Centre; it would also consider the possibility of making further contributions in 1973 and 1974.

12. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) observed that, while all the Main Committees, which dealt with questions that were essentially political although they covered a variety of fields, should be able to request the Office of Public Information to undertake activities in support of their objectives, the Fifth Committee had the additional responsibility of providing the Office with the resources it needed and was perhaps more competent than any other to take basic decisions in that area. In that connexion, his delegation fully agreed with many of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, including the fundamental principle that the main function of the Office of Public Information was to tell the peoples of the world, not what to think, but what to think about. His delegation noted, however, that certain paragraphs were contradictory and that the report completely ignored a number of vital factors.

13. While it was true that, as stated in the report, there had been great changes in the world since the establishment of the United Nations, those changes had been reflected in recommendations by the General Assembly, and it was not correct to say that United Nations information policies were still based on the original General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI). He regretted that the report did not give a list of the resolutions of United Nations bodies expressly calling on the Organization to undertake certain information activities. He had in mind, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the mobilization of public opinion in connexion with the Second Development Decade, including the Council's resolution—resolution 1357 (XLV)—approving the importance attached by the Secretary-General to the establishment of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, which the USSR representative had suggested was unlawful. In that connexion, his delegation had been surprised at the doubts expressed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information concerning the arrangements made by the Secretary-General with regard to the Centre, when the resolutions he had mentioned had contained quite clear guidelines.

14. Secondly, his delegation would have welcomed some expert advice on the proposals put forward in the Secretary-General's report. In that connexion, his delegation had no objection to the reconstitution of the Consultative Panel on Public Information provided that it was non-political and was composed of independent information experts.

15. Thirdly, in the modern world, decisions concerning information were taken only after the needs had been determined through a market survey. There was nothing in the Secretary-General's report to indicate that that method had been employed in the case of the Office of Public Information; on the contrary, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.4, para. 8) stated that the Secretary-General had not yet consulted the governments of the countries

directly affected by the establishment of the proposed production bureau at Addis Ababa.

16. His delegation urged the Secretariat to make a study of the needs, as reflected in requests from Governments, and to provide a quantitative estimate of the volume of information required.

17. His delegation would have great difficulty in appraising United Nations information policies and activities until the Secretariat had supplied the information that was lacking in the three areas he had mentioned.

18. Mr. YOGASUNDRAM (Ceylon) said that his delegation was opposed to the proposals made by the representatives of Canada and the Soviet Union at the 1447th meeting, both of which would have the effect of postponing consideration of the question until the following session. The Secretary-General stated in his report that he had taken into account the views of the Member States and of the Consultative Panel, which had seen the initial version of the report. It was therefore unnecessary for the Panel to review the report. Secondly, consideration of the question had been deferred year after year, and his delegation wondered what new factor had emerged during the past year that made the restitution of the Consultative Panel so vital. Thirdly, the Panel was not an expert body, but was composed of government representatives who could equally well make their views known in the Fifth Committee.

19. As had been pointed out, it was the Fifth Committee which had hitherto been responsible for supervising the policies and activities of the Office of Public Information. At the same time, all major bodies had made recommendations relating to their particular areas of concern. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had asked (1449th meeting) that directives for the Office should be centrally co-ordinated and articulated. His delegation was not quite certain how to interpret that request because, whichever body drafted a resolution, it was always the General Assembly which adopted it finally.

20. The Assistant Secretary-General had also asked what Member States expected of the Office of Public Information. His delegation felt that the Office should not only record and report but also push and promote. If the Organization was to achieve the end which it had set out to achieve, every arm of it should be utilized to the utmost. As the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had pointed out, the Development Decade had created a new set of priorities. The Office of Public Information must certainly be utilized to mobilize public opinion in the developing States and, even more important, in the developed countries. It was time for the Office of Public Information to begin pushing and promoting, although it should do that with prudence to avoid any interference in the internal affairs of States.

21. Mr. RUIZ DE GAMBOA (Chile) said that his delegation shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 42 of his report to the effect that, given the nature of the Organization's activities, all information activity conducted on behalf of it could not deviate from the basic political postulates of "objectivity" and "universality".

22. If the Organization was to attain its objectives, it was essential that its work should be known in every part of the world. The Office of Public Information had carried out extremely important work to that end since its establishment. The scope of its activities must be further extended to cover the remotest areas and his delegation was concerned to note that, proportionate to the total amount of the regular budget, the resources made available to the Office of Public Information had fallen from 10.6 per cent in 1946 to 4.15 per cent in 1971.

23. In General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 1405 (XIV), the Secretary-General had been requested to appoint a panel of qualified persons representative of the various geographical areas of the world and also, with the agreement of the Governments concerned, to establish new information centres, particularly in those regions where mass information media were less developed. His delegation therefore supported the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa. It also supported the proposals to revive the Consultative Panel and, in that connexion, suggested that the Secretary-General should be empowered to appoint, with the agreement of the Governments concerned, the persons most qualified to participate in the work of the Panel, on the basis of rotation to ensure better geographical distribution.

24. His delegation was in general agreement with the increase in resources requested by the Office of Public Information. Nevertheless, it had reservations with regard to the colour television equipment because colour programmes were destined for only a small number of developed countries.

25. Finally, his delegation wished to reiterate that the Office of Public Information should provide objective and universal information, emphasizing the Organization's priority programmes and endeavouring to contact circles which could exert influence on public opinion—in particular, the specialist press, teaching establishments and non-governmental organizations.

26. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) commended the Secretary-General on his comprehensive and highly informative report, which deserved thorough scrutiny.

27. The complexity of the issues which confronted the international community required an ever more imaginative approach to information policies and activities if the message and achievements of the United Nations were to be conveyed to all the peoples of the world. In that connexion, the Office of Public Information was shouldering an onerous responsibility. Nevertheless, its basic principles did not need to be revised, amended or enlarged. It was rather the relationship between information activities and information objectives which should be determined and constantly reviewed. It must also be determined whether the changes which had taken place since 1946 on the international scene required any modification or readjustment of existing policies or current activities.

28. The strengthening of the operations of the Office of Public Information to meet the expectations of the peoples of the world was a matter of urgency. The Office must give pride of place to issues which were of crucial importance

for international public information, namely, *apartheid*, racial discrimination, colonialism, disarmament and international co-operation for economic and social development. It should be realized that, in those areas, international public opinion was no longer passive and that the achievements and activities of the Organization were sometimes criticized. At the current juncture, it seemed that scarcely any hope or faith remained in the capability of the United Nations to establish peace and security, justice and welfare.

29. There had been a considerable change in the international psychological attitude towards the United Nations. Unfortunately, there was at the moment an extremely hostile current of public opinion towards the Organization in New York, and it was distressing that the information media in the city played a considerable part in feeding public opinion with biased information about it. The United Nations information services had a duty to combat adverse psychological attitudes towards the United Nations by all means in its power.

30. The Organization must prove itself capable of fulfilling the objectives and principles of the Charter as the only way to confront the prevailing scepticism of world public opinion. In that domain, the Office of Public Information must play a more direct role in promoting wider understanding of the aims and activities of the United Nations. His delegation also hoped that new developments, such as the restoration of the rights of the People's Republic of China, would restore some popular confidence in the United Nations.

31. The activities of the Office of Public Information had been constantly increasing to meet new demands, but consideration must be given to all measures which could aid national Governments and information agencies by providing them with essential services and supplies, within the Office's mandated limits of universality and objectivity. In that connexion, the Secretary-General had advanced many suggestions and guidelines designed to enable the Office to face its responsibility fully, qualitatively and quantitatively.

32. It had been argued that the limited resources available to the Office of Public Information prevented it from discharging its functions adequately and that additional resources were necessary. The latter could be provided through an increase in the annual allocation for the Office of Public Information or from the Working Capital Fund, on a reimbursable basis. Additional resources must be found if the modernization and replacement programme for television and radio equipment was to be carried out.

33. His delegation supported the proposal for the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa and welcomed the proposal to establish other regional bureaux to serve Asia, Latin America and the Middle East if the Addis Ababa experiment proved successful. The latter bureaux could promote the activities of ECA and help to mobilize public opinion without, however, superseding the direct contact established between the Office of Public Information at Headquarters or replacing national information centres.

34. His delegation was greatly concerned by the inadequacy of the Arabic language information services. The

Arabic-speaking countries represented a considerable percentage of the Organization's Member States and any appraisal of information programmes should take into consideration, in the establishment of priorities, the particular needs for radio and other services in the Arabic language.

35. Lastly, his delegation, like many others, considered that the Consultative Panel on Public Information should be reactivated. In that regard, the question at issue was the need to reconvene the Consultative Panel rather than to discuss changes in its composition.

36. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information for his extremely lucid statement on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities. The Office of Public Information deserved congratulations for the manner in which it had discharged its duties and obligations in the existing circumstances. If the results obtained by the Office were not completely satisfactory, the sincerity of its endeavours, having regard to the limitations imposed upon it, should be recognized.

37. He noted that, according to paragraph 197 of the Secretary-General's report, the number of information centres in the field had increased from 2 in 1946 to 51 at the present time. It was further stated in paragraph 208 of the report that 24 Member States were directly served by Headquarters for geographical, linguistic and other reasons. Indonesia was one of those States and his delegation wished to know whether that direct servicing was a privilege or whether it was due to the fact that the country could not qualify for a United Nations Information Centre in its territory, and what conditions had to be met in order for it to qualify. When his Government had formally requested that an information centre should be established at Djakarta in May 1969, the Office of Public Information had informed it that it could not comply with that request unless Indonesia was prepared to pay an additional \$20,000 annually. Was that requirement due to "geographical", "linguistic" or "other" reasons? His delegation hoped that the Office of Public Information would reconsider its decision because an information centre in Indonesia would serve a population of 120 million and would be in the interest of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

38. With regard to the question whether the Office of Public Information should merely record and report or, alternatively, promote and encourage, his delegation entirely agreed with the representative of Ceylon on the need to promote and encourage the mobilization of public opinion in support of the Second United Nations Development Decade, both in the developing and the developed countries. In his report, the Secretary-General explained that the policy of the Organization, which was to create a better understanding of its purposes and activities, should pay particular attention to the needs of regions where information media were less well developed. With regard to "substantive" information, the efforts of the Office of Public Information should also be directed to the developed countries with a view to ensuring the success of the Second Development Decade.

39. Neither the Office of Public Information nor the Centre for Economic and Social Information needed a new

mandate or any new guidance. General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) and paragraph 84 of the International Development Strategy approved by General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) had established the principles governing economic and social information.

40. Instead of entering into a lengthy debate on the need for a new mandate and new guidelines, efforts should be intensified to inform the peoples of both the industrialized and developing countries that it was absolutely essential for the International Development Strategy to be implemented and even improved.

41. Mr. MAROOFI (Afghanistan) recalled that in the general discussion his delegation had expressed the wish for better dissemination of information on the purposes and principles of the United Nations in all areas of the world. The United Nations could not achieve the purposes for which it had been created unless all the peoples of the world were fully informed, and that was the responsibility of the Office of Public Information.

42. In the view of his delegation, the Office of Public Information had not fulfilled its task and, what was more serious, had shifted from the policy originally planned for it. It had proved to be ineffective and its information was sometimes biased. His criticism might seem harsh, but it reflected the importance which his delegation attached to the principles on which the Office had been established.

43. The Office of Public Information was one of the most important organs of the United Nations because it was capable of creating a constructive image of the United Nations and its various activities in the minds of all the peoples of the world. If it had failed, it was because it had not adhered to the necessary criteria of objectivity and impartiality and that could be attributed in part to the composition and qualifications of its administrative staff. There was need for a close and thorough review of the over-all machinery of the Office of Public Information with a view to eliminating the spirit of favouritism that pervaded all its operations.

44. His delegation would associate itself with any suggestions aimed at restoring efficiency, competence and, above all, objectivity to the Office of Public Information.

45. Mr. MURRAY (Guyana) said he considered that the Secretary-General's report on the question under discussion was a comprehensive and well written document and his delegation was in substantial agreement with its conclusions and recommendations.

46. The Fifth Committee was called upon to appraise United Nations information activities with a view to determining whether the basic principles and policies which governed the programmes and activities of the Office of Public Information needed to be changed and to decide what were the most effective means of honouring the principles and implementing the policies. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the basic principles did not need to be changed, but that they should be interpreted more flexibly in order to take account of the

changes which had taken place in the past 20 years within the United Nations and outside it, and on the understanding that such flexibility would be exercised within well-defined policy parameters and under strict policy controls. Within that framework, the role of the Office of Public Information extended beyond that of merely recording and reporting. On such issues as economic and social development, promotion of human rights, elimination of racial discrimination and protection of the human environment, the United Nations had taken action-oriented positions and the Office of Public Information should give maximum publicity to its activities in those fields. His delegation noted, for example, that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2764 (XXVI) on the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa, called upon the Office of Public Information to publicize all available information on the maltreatment and torture of prisoners and detainees in South Africa. He was confident that the Office would not fail to discharge its responsibilities and would abide by explicit directives from the Assembly. However, his delegation wished to re-emphasize that the Office of Public Information's action should always be based on very clearly defined directives relating to clearly defined issues approved by the United Nations as a whole.

47. Public information activities, because of their importance and their inherent potential for bias, had to be very strictly controlled. To be effective, such control should be exercised by a single body which would be responsible for all information activities in all fields. His delegation believed that the Office of Public Information was the logical authority to act as such a central co-ordinating body responsible for implementing information policy. It should also control the information activities of other United Nations bodies and ensure that information policy was uniformly interpreted.

48. Before deciding whether to reactivate the Consultative Panel on Public Information or to establish a committee of experts, the Committee should determine what the role of such a body would be. Would it be an advisory body on policy or on the strategy to be used in implementing policies determined by the General Assembly? Matters of policy were too important and only Member States collectively should be entrusted with such responsibilities. In the circumstances, the reconstituted Consultative Panel should not be empowered to make policy recommendations, but should advise on strategy to be used in implementing approved policies. Accordingly, the Panel should be composed of representatives of Governments rather than information experts and its recommendations should not be binding on the Office of Public Information.

49. His delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General with regard to the acquisition and replacement of equipment programme.

50. The proposal for the establishment of a regional production bureau in Addis Ababa should be approved by the countries it was intended to service.

51. Finally, he expressed the hope that the Fifth Committee would find it possible to take firm decisions on information questions at the current session.

*First reading (continued)\* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3  
and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (*continued*)\*  
(A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1  
AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366  
AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065,  
A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13 TO 15)

52. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to resume consideration of the estimates under section 3 in first reading and of the revised estimates under that section resulting from the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions.

53. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that section 3 was very important since staff costs represented 75 per cent of all budget expenditure and therefore had a considerable impact on the total amount of the budget. His delegation found the proposed increase in Secretariat staff completely unjustified. Unfortunately, there was a growing tendency to increase extensively administrative work. In that connexion, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions regarding the need to increase the productivity and output of Secretariat staff merited special attention; that improvement must be obtained within the limits of existing resources. The establishment of new posts and the recruitment of temporary staff did not seem imperative. The Advisory Committee had merely recommended partial reductions, which were insufficient.

54. The proposals contained in the draft resolution submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.5/L.1065) to maintain the manning table of the Secretariat at the 1971 level in 1972, to discontinue with effect from 1 January 1972 the financing of all provisional posts and to achieve a substantial reduction in the number of external consultants and temporary staff were perfectly sound. If adopted, they would allow changes to be made in the 1972 budget. His delegation also supported the proposal of the representative of Poland (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13) that the Joint Inspection Unit should include in its programme of work for 1972 an over-all review of the question of experts and consultants and that it should submit its report to the General Assembly at the twenty-seventh session.

55. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) noted that section 3 was the most important section of the budget estimates, because of the high estimates of expenditure it contained and because of the justifiable concern it aroused on the part of most delegations over the many and complex problems raised by the various items of which it was composed.

56. If, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had stated at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1377), staff costs represented 75 per cent of the Organization's budget, only one quarter of the budget approved for 1972 would be spent on the essential activities of the Organization. That imbalance between staff costs and expenditure on operational activities was very disturbing.

\* Resumed from the 1449th meeting.

57. Equally disturbing for his delegation was the increasingly large proportion allocated to consultant services, which represented 9 per cent of staff costs. In that connexion, his delegation shared the concern of the Advisory Committee and supported the proposal made by the Polish delegation that the Joint Inspection Unit should carry out an over-all review of the question. It felt, however, that practical steps should be taken immediately at Secretariat level to ensure that consultants would be engaged only if the Secretariat did not have the necessary skills at its disposal. Such action would prevent a waste of skills and funds.

58. In the light of those considerations, his delegation would welcome any economies in staff costs or savings which would make it possible to increase the resources allocated to operational activities.

59. As the Advisory Committee had emphasized several times in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the year 1972 and as was apparent from the statements of delegations, staff productivity was one of the Organization's major problems. His delegation was sure that a better deployment of staff and services would help to improve the situation. It also noted that the principle of geographical and linguistic distribution was little respected, either in the recruitment of permanent staff or in the recruitment of consultants and temporary staff. It hoped that efforts would be made in future to bring about a better geographical and linguistic balance in the allocation of Secretariat posts.

60. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, taking into account the supplementary estimates approved for 1971, the increase in the figures recommended by the Advisory Committee in section 3 of the budget estimates for 1972 over the figures approved for 1971 amounted only to some \$5.8 million. His delegation was prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations on section 3, but wished to draw attention to certain aspects of that section.

61. It found, in the first place, that because of the Secretary-General's having undertaken to maintain the manning table of the Secretariat at the 1970 level in 1971, some posts in ECA had not been filled, despite the recommendation to that effect by the Administrative Management Service. It was again being proposed, in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1065, that the manning table should be maintained at the 1971 level in 1972. That seemed to his delegation an arbitrary restriction which made no allowance for the merits of each case. The Secretary-General must have the staff for carrying out the tasks assigned to him by virtue of decisions by various United Nations bodies. Instead of arbitrarily limiting staff resources it would be better to increase staff productivity. Some doubts seemed to persist regarding the activities of the Administrative Management Service and it would be useful to have a detailed report on the Service's recommendations and the follow-up to them, as his delegation had already suggested.

62. As to consultants, he considered the points raised at the 1448th meeting by the representatives of Poland and Egypt very pertinent and recalled that his own delegation had already suggested that when a decision was taken to engage a consultant the Secretariat should tap all its

existing resources and not restrict itself to the department or unit concerned. In that connexion, a statement of the skills available in the Secretariat should be prepared and should be consulted before an expert or consultant was engaged. It was also important that consultants and experts should be drawn, as far as practicable, from all geographical regions, without any lowering of recruitment standards. After 26 years' experience, the requirements of the United Nations should be sufficiently well known for recruitment policies to allow for the special skills and talents needed by the various departments, and thus avoid the need for consultants. He believed it was not too late to embark on suitable long-term recruitment planning.

63. In his view, General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) relating to the use of working languages should not be applied too strictly, as that might cause the staff to neglect their duties in order to acquire an adequate knowledge of a second language. He would like to know the financial implication of the implementation of that resolution and proposed that its implementation should be suspended until the Committee had the final report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System.

64. Mr. KALITSOUNAKIS (Greece) shared the anxiety expressed by many delegations about the constant increase in staff costs, especially the cost of engaging temporary staff. He was aware that the increase was mainly due to circumstances beyond the control of the Secretary-General, but believed that all possible efforts should be made to reduce expenses in order to put the Organization's house in order.

65. While the estimates of expenditure in section 3 of the budget estimates for 1972 were about \$8.2 million more than the 1971 appropriation, it was difficult to understand how additional staff could be requested when it was already difficult to pay the existing staff. His delegation was thinking especially of the use of consultants and experts, which cost the Organization a considerable amount. It believed that substantial economies could be achieved if an effort was made to improve the productivity of the regular staff by the better deployment of existing posts, better organization of work among different departments and stricter control of existing staff.

66. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that temporary assistance requirements for the General Assembly should be subjected to stricter control; similarly, consultants and experts should be employed only in specific, strictly limited, cases where their expertise was absolutely necessary and not available in the Secretariat. It therefore endorsed the proposals, put forward by several delegations, that the Secretary-General should be requested to study the staff problem in all its aspects as a matter of urgency and submit suggestions as soon as possible for achieving a substantial reduction in the number of external consultants and temporary staff.

67. Mr. ZIEHL (Deputy Controller), replying to the first three questions put by the representative of Canada at the 1449th meeting, said that neither the United Nations nor the specialized agencies were continuing to pay salaries and wages quoted in United States dollars at the local currency

equivalents which had prevailed before the countries in question had revalued their currencies or adopted floating rates.

68. As to the second question put by the representative of Canada concerning the advantages and disadvantages—for personnel, for the Administration and for Member States—of the two possible methods of offsetting the effects on salaries of exchange rate instability, namely, the continued payment of local currency equivalents at previously prevailing rates on the one hand, and the incorporation of an exchange-rate factor in the cost-of-living index and therefore in post adjustments on the other, he said that the two methods could not be separated but must be applied simultaneously. In the event of devaluation, the staff benefited if the exchange rate was modified immediately but was at a disadvantage if it was not. Generally speaking, when a change in post adjustment was deferred for one reason or another, the personnel was at a disadvantage when the post adjustment was raised and benefited when it was reduced. The advantages and disadvantages were more or less the same for the Administration and for States Members. In the event of devaluation or official revaluation, the problem was relatively simple when there was a fixed exchange rate on which the rate used by the United Nations could be based. In the case of a floating currency, however, it was very difficult at the outset to know exactly at what level the exchange rate would stabilize. A certain amount of experience of the situation was necessary in order to be able to determine that level and fix the corresponding rate to be used in converting United Nations staff salaries into local currencies. The operation required time; with the revaluation of the previous August, for example, it had not been possible to fix the exchange rate until the end of September. Nevertheless, as swift a modification as possible in the exchange rate used by the United Nations in its operations was in the general interest. He pointed out, with respect to the application of the cost-of-living index to post adjustments (up or down), that under the United Nations system the post adjustment could not be modified until a cost-of-living increase of at least 5 per cent had been maintained for a period of four months. That situation was explained by the fact that although the cost-of-living index tended, on the whole, to rise it did fluctuate and was sensitive to fluctuations in exchange rates. It was questionable, however, that the four-month time lag was justified in cases of devaluation or revaluation. In both cases, the exchange rate used for salary payments in local currency and the post adjustment should be modified as soon as possible and, if possible, simultaneously. The Expert Committee on Post Adjustments was to study the question and submit a report in January 1972.

69. Replying to the third question put by the representative of Canada, he said that the system he had just described, namely, modifying the exchange rate used by the United Nations in its operations and the post adjustment (up or down) as soon as possible and simultaneously, was a permanent system. Only the time lag of four months, which was currently under study, could be modified.

70. Mr. PICK (Canada) thanked the Deputy Controller for his explanations and said that he was glad to learn that the United Nations and all the specialized agencies approached the problem of fluctuating exchange rates in the same manner.

71. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation for section 3 and would vote for it. He could not, however, support the draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union (A/C.5/L.1065) because it would not be in the interest of the Organization to freeze the manning table and he could see no reason for an arbitrary reduction in staff costs. His delegation was entirely in favour of a policy of budgetary austerity, but it hardly seemed appropriate to adopt restrictive measures at the present time because by doing so the Fifth Committee would encroach on the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

72. Moreover, the draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union seemed to establish a link between the budget deficit and the need to take restrictive measures, whereas he was convinced that such measures would not reduce the deficit. Furthermore, the language of the draft resolution was imprecise. For example, the first preambular paragraph referred to "the resources of States Members" whereas the resources in question were those of the Organization since, once they had been paid into the Organization's budget, they no longer belonged to Member States. It would appear from the second preambular paragraph that the draft resolution was based on the assumption that there were "considerable opportunities for improving the efficiency of the staff of the Secretariat"; that was tantamount to prejudging the outcome of the administrative management survey currently under way. He could not support the provisions of subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the operative paragraph. He did, however, recognize the need, stated in subparagraph (c), to reduce the number of external consultants and temporary staff, but pointed out that by requesting the Secretary-General to study the question, the representative of the Soviet Union was precisely requesting the Secretariat to conduct a survey of itself, a practice he had strongly objected to.

73. In conclusion, he proposed that the Soviet Union's draft resolution should be amended by the deletion of the first preambular paragraph and of subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the operative paragraph and slight amendments to the second preambular paragraph and subparagraph (c) of the operative paragraph: after emphasizing that it was in the interest of the Organization to improve the efficiency of the staff of the United Nations through means such as better organization, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve the efficiency of the permanent staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations with a view to reducing the number of external consultants and temporary staff.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-4, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/C.5/1372, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 to 1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 17, E/5038)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued) (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12)*

1. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) replied to the comments that had been made at the previous meeting by the representative of the Netherlands who had felt that because of the changes that had taken place in the world since 1946, when the Office of Public Information had been established, the United Nations should not continue to base its information policies on General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952. That was precisely the issue to which the Secretary-General had drawn attention and which formed the basis of his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1). In paragraph 48 of his report the Secretary-General in fact stated that against the background of those marked and irreversible changes that had overtaken the United Nations since it had first been created in 1945, and in the context of the new directions into which United Nations activity was today compulsively flowing in ever-increasing volume, the nature, quantity and content of its own activity could not remain static. The Secretary-General concluded, however, in paragraph 57, that the basic principles established by the General Assembly in 1946 and 1952 did not need to be amended, a conclusion which almost every delegation had accepted.

2. Recalling that the representative of the Netherlands had expressed regret that the report did not enumerate the various resolutions which contained explicit recommendations regarding the information activities to be undertaken by the United Nations, in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1357 (XLV), which had been endorsed

by General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) and which was reflected in section E of the International Development Strategy adopted by General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), he drew attention to paragraph 39 of the Secretary-General's report which mentioned Economic and Social Council resolutions 1176 (XLI) and 1357 (XLV) concerning the role which the Office of Public Information should play in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade. He also drew attention to paragraph 242 of the report, which summarized Economic and Social Council resolution 1357 (XLV) and General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV). It would be fairly difficult to draw up a list of the various resolutions dealing with information matters, as the representative of the Netherlands had requested, since the report clearly indicated that there had been a large number of such resolutions since 1946—in fact, the various organs and organizations of the United Nations adopted between 15 and 30 such resolutions each year.

3. He observed that the reason why he had felt it necessary to speak about the relationship between the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information, despite the fact that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had already approved resolutions concerning the Second Development Decade, was that he had been replying to questions put by some members of the Committee. It had also been to point out that, while the General Assembly resolutions on the mobilization of public opinion for the Development Decade were, like those on the elimination of *apartheid* and colonialism, directives binding on the Secretariat, those resolutions merely emphasized the need to intensify information activities, a need which no one had challenged, and they proposed no new constitutional framework for such activities. The Centre for Economic and Social Information was even referred to as forming part of the Office of Public Information.

4. Noting that the representative of the Netherlands, like many other delegations, had reproached the Secretary-General for not having consulted the Governments concerned regarding the possible establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, he said that prior consultations would have been undertaken if the programme had been anything more than a simple extension of the services which the Office of Public Information already provided for Member States. The Secretary-General had intended to obtain the General Assembly's approval first, before consulting the various Governments of the countries concerned, as was indicated in paragraph 221 of his report. Moreover, the implementation of the recommendation in question would not be possible without the close collaboration of the countries which the bureau would serve.

5. As for the market analysis requested by the representative of the Netherlands to determine the information needs of Governments, he thought that it was far outside the financial, administrative and political scope of the United Nations. It should be noted, however, that, within its own limitations, through its own information centres and through UNITAR's research activities, the Office of Public Information was endeavouring to obtain the type of information requested by the representative of the Netherlands.

6. With regard to the television activities of the Office of Public Information, he said that, although it was true that a large part of the revenue of the United Nations in that area came from television stations in North America, it was also true that, in 1970 and 1971, 35 countries outside North America had broadcast documentary films provided by the United Nations television service and that a number of those countries had arranged for their own language versions at their own expense. In paragraphs 157 to 160 of his report, the Secretary-General indicated how such activities could be developed and what the financial implications of free distribution of programmes in French, Spanish and Arabic to developing countries would be.

7. With regard to the radio and television broadcast services in Arabic, the inadequacy of which the representatives of Iraq (1450th meeting) and Sudan (1452nd meeting) had deplored, he said that short-wave programmes in Arabic were broadcast twice a day during the General Assembly from both Headquarters and Geneva. A weekly service was maintained during the rest of the year. The possibility of medium-wave broadcasts depended on the goodwill of Member States and negotiations on that matter were taking place. It should also be pointed out that United Nations radio programmes on tape were sent throughout the year to all broadcasting organizations in the Arab world and reports had confirmed that those programmes had been broadcast on local wavelengths for Arabic-speaking listeners. Eighty-five interviews with representatives of Arabic-speaking countries to the United Nations had been recorded and made available to all Arab broadcasting organizations. As for television, a weekly programme in Arab was produced during the General Assembly. That programme—which was the only series of actuality coverage regularly produced in an international language other than English—was retransmitted by 14 national television organizations in the Middle East and North Africa.

8. Lastly, replying to the observations of the representative of Indonesia at the previous meeting concerning the opening of an information centre at Djakarta, he pointed out that the United Nations had had an information centre in Indonesia—one of the largest in the world—from 1957 to 1965. Since that time, the Office of Public Information had carried out no activities in Indonesia, but he intended to remedy that situation as soon as possible and as far as he could.

9. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) observed that the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had interpreted his statement incorrectly on one point: he had not said that the Office of Public Information should not continue to base its policies on General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI), but that, since many changes had

occurred since that time and since the various United Nations organs had adopted many resolutions on the activities of the Office of Public Information, it would be useful to have a list of those resolutions.

10. With regard to the Centre for Economic and Social Information, he had said that he had been surprised to hear the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, in his statement at the 1451st meeting, express doubts regarding the arrangements made by the Secretary-General in respect of the Centre, when Economic and Social Council resolution 1357 (XLV) contained clear directives on that matter.

11. As for the market analysis, the possibility of which had been excluded by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, he himself continued to think that Governments could provide broader information regarding their information needs.

12. Mr. STEWARD (South Africa) said he thought that the Fifth Committee, on which all Member States were represented, was competent to take decisions on the policies and activities of the Office of Public Information. Moreover, it had the advantage of not participating in the discussion of any political issues. It was therefore in a position to resolve in a detached manner the problems raised by the utilization of the limited resources of the Office of Public Information and to reconcile the different points of view as to how that Office should discharge its mandate. In that connexion, the Fifth Committee might well benefit from the advice of a consultative panel of specialists in information matters which could report to the Committee either directly or through the Secretary-General on matters referred to it. The Consultative Panel on Public Information established by General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959 could well be adapted to fulfil such a function.

13. His delegation had consistently supported the basic policies and principles governing the operations of the Office of Public Information as originally enunciated in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI). He ran over the summary of those principles in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), and pointed out that the principle in subparagraph (d) that the Office of Public Information should undertake, on its own initiative, positive informational activities to supplement the services of existing agencies must be understood as falling within the framework of subparagraph (c), which stated that the United Nations Department of Public Information should not engage in propaganda. He was gratified to note from subparagraphs 57 (i) and (ii) of his report that the Secretary-General concluded that the basic principles did not need to be revised, amended or enlarged and could and should be confined and accommodated within the existing basic principles and terms of reference. Those conclusions were reflected also in the summary of the recommendations in paragraph 261 and they had been confirmed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information in the statement he had made at the 1451st meeting when he had said that related activities must be conducted within the further twin principles of objectivity, impartiality and universality, on the one hand, and central direction and control on the other. The South African



delegation also supported the conclusions set forth in subparagraph (iii) of paragraph 57, to the effect that the Office of Public Information should continue to rely primarily upon the services of existing agencies of information and that its own primary function should continue to be to assist such agencies in their own activities and operations. It also endorsed conclusion (iv) that responsibility for the fuller and more effective utilization of the media of mass communication rested primarily with national Governments themselves. On the other hand, it could not support the conclusion in subparagraph (v) that in its "supplemental activities" the Office of Public Information should consider itself not only free, but indeed obligated, to pursue a more active information programme, more directly geared to support those activities, among which the elimination of *apartheid* was mentioned. He doubted very much that the Office of Public Information could carry out such activities while respecting the principle of objectivity mentioned in the same subparagraph or continue to draw a clear distinction between the "active" and the "activist" approach and not cross the "boundary" separating the beforementioned activities from propaganda, as prescribed in subparagraph 52 (c). The United Nations should not forgo objectivity by over-emphasizing one or other aspect of its activities, even assuming those activities were universally agreed to be legitimate. The remarks he had just made applied *inter alia* to the publication *Objective: Justice*, the translation of which into French recommended in subparagraph 261 (iv) of the report, would require according to the Secretary-General's estimates (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1, annex II) an additional expenditure of \$24,000, which amount had been included by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report to the Committee (A/8408/Add.4, para. 5) without detailed examination. It was obvious to any impartial reader that that publication was an instrument of propaganda which did not meet the criterion of objectivity that should govern all United Nations information activities. It was more activist than active. The proclivity of *Objective: Justice* to editorialize, for example in volume 3, No. 4, could not be justified in terms of the mandate of the Office of Public Information and had implications for the future. Member States could not and would not delegate *carte blanche* to the Secretariat the right to speak on their behalf, but would insist on their own choice of words to which they attached particular significance. As noted in paragraph 42 of the Secretary-General's report, United Nations information programmes must be aimed at explanation and clarification, not exhortation; they must be reportorial. The same principles applied to the signed articles which appeared in *Objective: Justice*. In publishing that periodical the Office of Public Information was exceeding its mandate; moreover, much of the material therein was based on activities which were themselves *ultra vires* and his delegation could not support the allocation of additional funds for translating or printing it.

14. Turning to the other documents and publications produced by the Office of Public Information, he said that the *Yearbook of the United Nations* and the *UN Monthly Chronicle* served a useful purpose; the South African delegation trusted that the criterion of objectivity was observed when signed articles were published in the latter. The press releases section carried out its task efficiently and impartially, as did the radio service in its news bulletins.

15. In the view of the South African delegation, no hasty decision should be taken about the establishment of a regional production bureau for Africa and additional inquiries should be made before taking any steps in that direction. It was not convinced that at the present stage such a venture would represent the most constructive use of the Office of Public Information's scarce funds. Care should be taken also to avoid duplication of information activities by the various United Nations organs, and the disadvantages of a proliferation of information-producing units falling outside the purview of the Office of Public Information should be recognized.

16. The replacement of audio-visual equipment was an expensive operation; the Committee should make sure that the programme for replacement had been planned so as to ensure maximum economies and optimum utilization of the new equipment.

17. Publications referred to in paragraphs 19 and 118 of the Secretary-General's report and dealt with by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information (see A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12) overstepped or bypassed the Organization's mandate. In regard to the production of information material in general, it would be a simple matter for any person armed with a pair of scissors and a representative selection of the press of any country where a free press was tolerated, as in his country, to compile a scrap-book of incongruous and unfavourable reports on that country. Such a scrap-book would be meaningless as an evaluation of the situation in the country as a whole and would represent at best simply a distorted view of a small segment of that country's activities. That was the view of his country that was being presented in some publications to the membership of the United Nations and to the world at large. His delegation could accordingly not lend its support to the production of documentation of the type in question.

18. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that all the speakers in the debate on agenda item 76 had recognized the importance of the Office of Public Information as one of the principal units of the Secretariat. It was listed as such in General Assembly resolution 13 (I), under which the Department (now Office) of Public Information had been established. It was one of the principal units of the Secretariat because the United Nations could not attain its purposes and carry on its activities successfully unless the peoples of the world were properly informed. That was why the Technical Advisory Committee on Information had put forward the 16 recommendations in annex I to that resolution. It was in those recommendations that an answer was to be found to the question asked by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information at the 1449th meeting; he had wanted to know what was expected of the Office of Public Information, since the Committee was demanding conflicting things of it. The apparent contradictions might perhaps be due to the fact that the debate had ranged widely over many aspects of the Office's activities, but what the Committee expected of it was nothing more than what was laid down in annex I to resolution 13 (I), particularly recommendation 2 thereof, which clearly stated that the Department of Public Information should primarily assist established governmental and non-governmental agencies of information and co-operate with them to promote informed understanding of the work of

the United Nations. However, the resolution did not say that the Department should be subordinate to those agencies in carrying out its mandate. On the contrary, recommendation 4 of the annex specified that, subject to the general authority of the principal organs of the United Nations, responsibility for the formulation of information policy should be vested in the Secretary-General and under him in the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information. Those recommendations had been reaffirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 595 (XVI); they were therefore the basic principles governing United Nations information activities and defined the Office of Public Information's mandate.

19. Recommendation 6 said that in order to ensure that peoples in all parts of the world received as full information as possible about the United Nations, the Department of Public Information should consider the establishment of branch offices. In addition, recommendation 12 said that the Department of Public Information should assist and encourage national information services and other governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in spreading information about the United Nations. For that purpose, it would operate a fully-equipped reference service, brief or supply lecturers, and make available publications and other materials for use by those agencies and organizations. He wished to emphasize the word "publications", for in Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, seekers after information about the Organization could not find all the publications they wanted, since only a very few copies were published. The result was that Colombians knew next to nothing about the United Nations and its achievements. He emphasized the need to provide fully briefed lecturers, for he attached great importance to direct contact with people. The aim was not only to provide information but to correct misconceptions and supplement the fragmentary information about the United Nations, its operation and its activities from which nearly every country suffered.

20. The United Nations information centres set up by General Assembly resolution 1086 (XI) of 21 December 1956 had an important role to play in information activities; but however active they might be, their activities would do no good if they were sent out-of-date material of no interest to the public that made it impossible for them to carry out their task and they were given merely routine instructions. The centres should not only serve the government officials of the capitals of the countries where they were located; they should use modern information media to inform the population of the entire region. Information services must be more up to date, the information provided must be given more impact through the use of information centres that would establish and maintain better public relations; that did not mean they should put out propaganda, only that they should cease to be a sort of diplomatic mission of the Secretariat accredited to the Governments of Member States, as was only too often the case at present.

21. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had said that the resources of the Office of Public Information were insufficient to enable it to provide every country in the world with information on the purposes and activities of the United Nations, which would cost over

\$200 million a year. The Office of Public Information would never have such a budget and the Assistant Secretary-General knew it; that made his statement alarming, all the more so as it had been made before the Committee had discussed communications by satellites. If the Office had not carried out its tasks satisfactorily, that was due not to lack of funds but to lack of organization. What was needed was a better use of staff, both at Headquarters and in the field, and better working methods to enable the Secretariat to carry out the task imposed on it by the General Assembly resolutions already mentioned and resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959; paragraphs 6 and 7 of that resolution also requested the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure maximum effectiveness at minimum cost, which did not seem to be at all the present policy of the Secretariat. There might be an improvement if the Consultative Panel was reconvened. There might be grounds also for thinking that whether he wished it or not, his functions as Acting United Nations Commissioner for Namibia were preventing the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information from devoting all the time he would wish and all the time that was needed to his functions as head of the Office of Public Information.

22. A number of delegations had been surprised to learn that the Secretary-General might request the abolition of several information centre director posts and entrust the duties involved to UNDP resident representatives. Such action, which would mean the elimination of information experts, was inexplicable and might reduce the effectiveness of the information services. He would like to ask the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information whether or not the misgivings of the delegations concerned were well-founded.

23. His delegation would have to make a careful study of the 1972 budget estimates for the Office of Public Information and satisfy itself that the Office had taken into account the suggestions and recommendations made by the Fifth Committee before it could reach a decision on them.

24. In his statement at the 1449th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12), the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had said, in a personal parenthesis, that it was time for the United Nations to take another look at its public information activities and to decide whether or not the mandates laid down for the Office of Public Information were still valid today. His delegation had already stated its view that the mandate of the Office of Public Information had been very clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 13 (I) and had been reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 595 (VI). There was therefore no need to redefine it. The Assistant Secretary-General had complained that every other organ of the United Nations had also felt it necessary to pass resolutions making specific recommendations to the Secretary-General on information activity relating to the particular areas of concern for each of the organs involved, thus "intervening" in that area. All that the organs in question had done was to exercise their perfect right to collaborate with the Office of Public Information.

25. The Assistant Secretary-General, again expressing a personal thought, had raised the question of which was the appropriate United Nations organ to accept over-all res-

possibility for supervising and directing the work of the Office of Public Information. That responsibility did not rest with any United Nations organ; it rested with the Secretary-General, and therefore with the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. When anything went amiss, however, the Fifth Committee, which was responsible for supervising the activities of the Office of Public Information, was the one which could speak with exclusive authority on the affairs of that Office.

26. Elsewhere in his statement, the Assistant Secretary-General had compared the status of the Office of Public Information to that of an orphan, where no one accepted the obligation of parenthood or guardianship, but where everyone felt free to issue directives and commands. Such a statement could only be due to fatigue caused by overwork.

27. Lastly, the Assistant Secretary-General had said that the Office of Public Information was looking for its own point of reference and of protection, its own legislative "guardian angel". Every representative in the Fifth Committee knew that there was in fact such a point of reference and legislative authority, and they could not pay heed to that anguished appeal.

28. His delegation would like to know whether the appearance of the Assistant Secretary-General's personal views as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12 made them official, whether they were to be regarded as official statements by the representative of the Secretary-General to the Fifth Committee and whether the Secretary-General had authorized those statements.

29. His delegation wished to express its profound regret at the Secretary-General's decision to retire.

30. Mr. MAYNARD (Barbados) said a consensus seemed to have emerged in the Committee to the effect that, while public information was important, the needs of the Organization were far from adequately served by existing programmes in that field. The statements made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had been most useful, but not entirely convincing. His delegation recognized the need for the Office of Public Information to keep abreast of technological developments, but, in its view, to build a school or a health clinic was a more practical way of promoting development than to finance, for instance, a film on development or visits by students from developed to developing countries.

31. His delegation was dismayed at the lack of co-ordination indicated in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10, which contained information submitted by the Secretary-General in response to questions raised by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. For that reason, it associated itself with the proposals made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (1451st meeting) for prompt corrective action.

32. The problems with regard to economic and social information were not simply administrative, and the solution did not lie in simply placing the Centre for Economic and Social Information under the sole authority of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. That alternative did not appeal to his delegation for the reasons

stated by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. The best solution, in its view, would be to associate UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with programme planning and implementation in that area. It might be that that was the solution which the Secretary-General had sought to achieve when the Centre had been set up and the modalities for its operations laid down.

33. The issue before the Fifth Committee was not whether modern concepts and techniques of information were compatible with the principles approved in 1946 and reaffirmed in 1952 by the General Assembly. Where economic and social information was concerned, the issue had been decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 2567 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969, which had endorsed a number of programmes and given the Secretary-General a mandate to implement them. The Committee must now decide whether existing administrative arrangements provided the best possible framework for carrying out those programmes and for effective budgetary control. His delegation found it difficult to believe that the Secretary-General was not aware of weaknesses in the Office of Public Information's administrative arrangements; the fact that the Centre for Economic and Social Information was transferred back and forth between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of Public Information was evidence of a continuing search to eliminate those weaknesses. It was for that reason also that his delegation endorsed the proposals of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

34. His delegation also supported the proposal for the establishment of an intergovernmental body, selected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to advise the Secretary-General on United Nations information policies and programmes.

35. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said his delegation was pleased to note that the Office of Public Information was endeavouring to supply information regularly in several languages, including Arabic, French and Spanish, on certain special United Nations activities. It hoped that the Office would endeavour to use those languages even more, particularly in producing television programmes for developing countries in all parts of the world.

36. Mr. LOGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information for the contribution he had made to the Committee's discussions. His delegation had also noted with interest the suggestions made by various delegations for possible improvements in the Office of Public Information, at least with regard to administrative arrangements, since responsibility for defining and executing policies still rested with the Secretary-General.

37. He introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1066) whereby the Committee would request the Secretary-General to convene the Consultative Panel on Public Information for the purpose of studying the recommendations submitted by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1) and to submit his report on those recommendations to the Fifth Committee. The Committee would also recommend in the draft resolution that the

Secretary-General should revise the composition of the Consultative Panel to ensure that it reflected that of the United Nations.

38. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation, like others, recommended that no decision on the financial consequences of the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report should be taken in the Committee until a panel of experts had studied the proposals and given its views concerning their purposefulness and effectiveness. The panel should, for instance, make a detailed study of the conclusions in paragraph 57 of the report, which dealt with present policies of the United Nations in the field of information.

39. Nor could the purely financial implications of the proposals be underestimated. The Advisory Committee indicated in its related report (A/8408/Add.4) that the financial implications would amount to almost \$1 million annually for the next five years.

40. According to the Secretary-General's report, the production bureau at Addis Ababa would undertake new forms of information activities on an experimental basis, to be introduced later also in other regions. So important a decision as the establishment of the bureau must be made only after a thorough consideration of all aspects of the situation. Yet the Secretary-General had not sought the views of the Governments concerned.

41. There was already overlapping of Office of Public Information activities with those of the information services of the specialized agencies. In view of the financial crisis afflicting the United Nations, it was hardly an opportune time for establishing regional production bureaux. If, under the present circumstances, the United Nations allocated about 5 per cent of its budget to information activities, that money should not be used to finance ambitious plans which did not constitute a priority in United Nations activities and would never be able to replace the national mass media of Member States.

42. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation would soon submit a draft resolution on the question under discussion. His delegation could not accept the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union, and would come back to it later.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (*continued*) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13 TO 15)

43. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation attached particular importance to section 3, not only because of the volume of the estimates under that section but because some of the activities mentioned there were vitally important to the economic and social development of certain Member States. It should not be considered in isolation but within the context of the work programme and activities of the Organization. No sacrifice was too great if it enabled the Organization to achieve its objectives.

44. The Secretary-General was requesting \$94,674,650 under section 3, an increase of \$8,515,950 over 1971. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had pointed out that the increase was due, on the one hand, to increases in the salary scales and, on the other, to the increase in staff from the level approved for 1971. Chapter I (Established posts) alone showed an increase of \$7,101,500. Generally speaking, his delegation felt that there should be no excessive increases in the staff of the Secretariat, but it was in favour of reasonable increases, which were essential if the Organization was to carry out its responsibilities and, particularly, to reach the objectives set for the Second United Nations Decade; it therefore felt that the increases in appropriations requested under chapter I were justified. In addition, the increase in staff seemed perfectly reasonable in the light of the real expansion of the programme in the past five years (see document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.14, table A).

45. In paragraph 109 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972, the Advisory Committee had stated that it concurred in the Secretary-General's request for the new established posts for the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut. His delegation supported those proposals also, for the posts in question corresponded to economic and social activities that were closely tied to the Second Development Decade. The distribution of the new posts of the Professional category among the various regional economic commissions, as shown in the table of paragraph 106 of the Advisory Committee's report, also seemed satisfactory.

46. His delegation was pleased to note that the Secretary-General proposed to add 11 posts to the secretariat of ECA. That number should be further increased in order to enable ECA to expand its activities. The African continent attached great importance to the ECA's work and every African hoped it would help to some extent to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries.

47. In the past, his delegation had always felt that no new post should be established if the necessary activities could be performed by the existing staff. In that connexion, it drew attention to the Advisory Committee's statement, in paragraph 110 of its report, that it was not convinced that the function for which the new posts in the Office of Public Information were intended could not be carried out by the existing staff available to the Press and Publications Division.

48. At the previous session, his delegation had voted in favour of increasing the salaries of staff in the Professional and higher categories, feeling such increases were fully justified. However, the question of the salaries of United Nations officials should continue to be studied and in that connexion his delegation hoped that the final report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System would help solve the problems of the application of the common system and the validity of the principles governing the determination of salaries. His delegation supported the \$524,485 appropriation requested for the meetings of the Special Committee.

49. The comments he had just made did not take into account document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.15 which set out the

administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union (A/C.5/L.1065) concerning section 3.

50. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that, in view of the Organization's financial situation, it was unthinkable for the United Nations to incur any expenditure that was not absolutely indispensable, expand its activities or undertake marginal activities. Consequently, the Fifth Committee should consider the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 with particular care. Existing resources must be put to maximum use. The Committee should not only aim at economy, which it always did, it must take austerity measures.

51. His delegation did not share the views of those who felt that, in order to be dynamic, an organization must be constantly expanding, any more than it subscribed to the opinion of those who felt that the financial situation should not influence the position taken by delegations on the budget estimates and that it would be better to wait for the Secretary-General to recommend austerity measures in due course. The Organization could only receive the support it needed from Governments if it made a serious effort to eliminate from its budget any expenditure that was not top priority and could be deferred without harm. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was an example of an extremely efficient and dynamic institution whose staff resources and expenses had risen little over the years.

52. His delegation shared the concern expressed by numerous delegations during the general discussion at the constant increase in the staff of the Secretariat, the increased reliance on consultants and temporary staff and the increase in overtime. Since section 3 was the largest item in the budget, that was where attention should be concentrated. His delegation wished to propose some measures which it considered necessary in the present situation.

53. First, with regard to chapter I (Established posts), only those posts which had been specifically recommended by the Administrative Management Service should be approved, subject to the Committee's examining, on a case-by-case basis, requests for new posts arising from decisions taken after the preparation of the budget estimates. In addition, the Secretary-General should wait as long as possible in 1972 before filling even the new posts recommended by the Administrative Management Service, filling them only in case of absolute necessity. Consequently, a turnover deduction of 80 per cent should be applied to the cost of new posts in the Professional Category and above—40 per cent to the cost of new posts in the General Service and local categories—for all new posts approved for 1972.

54. Second, with regard to chapter II (Temporary assistance for meetings), his delegation fully endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 116 of its first report and believed in particular that if more strenuous efforts were made to improve productivity, very substantial economies could be achieved. Consequently, his delegation suggested that the appropriation requested under that chapter should be reduced to the amount approved in 1970, which would be roughly \$150,000 less than the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee.

55. Third, with regard to chapter III (Other temporary assistance), the Secretary-General should establish and apply stricter guidelines for the recruitment of temporary staff and should engage fewer experts and consultants. Consequently, he proposed that the appropriation requested under that chapter should be reduced to the level of expenditure in 1970, which would be some \$700,000 less than the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee.

56. Fourth, with regard to chapter IV (Overtime and night differential), his delegation fully shared the concern expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 128 of its report about the substantial increase under that chapter and considered that expenditure on overtime should be reduced. More productive use of staff would make it possible to reduce the necessary credits considerably. His delegation therefore proposed that expenditure under that item should be brought down to the 1970 level, which would mean a reduction of about \$40,000 below the estimate recommended by the Advisory Committee.

57. Fifth, the posts requested under chapter V (Provisional staffing requirements) had originally been intended, in 1970, to enable the Secretary-General to provide for additional staff pending the completion of the manpower utilization survey. There was little reason to continue that practice in a period of austerity and no new provisional posts should be provided in 1972. In emergency cases, where the strengthening of some units was essential, the necessary posts must be found from the available resources of the Secretariat.

58. The fact that his delegation was proposing for the whole of section 3 a lower level than that recommended by the Advisory Committee should not be interpreted as a reflection on the Advisory Committee or its recommendations, which had been made in June and July, when the financial position had not been as clear as it was now. It was also understandable that the Advisory Committee, as an expert body, had not considered itself in a position to propose extraordinary austerity measures to the General Assembly; it was for the representatives of Governments to take the decisions which were called for in the circumstances.

59. His delegation would circulate the text of its proposals<sup>1</sup> to members of the Fifth Committee that very day and would ask the representative of the Secretary-General to calculate the financial implications of those proposals, so that the Committee would have an over-all figure on which to vote.

60. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation had studied carefully the draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union (A/C.5/L.1065) requesting that the manning table should be maintained at the 1971 level in 1972, that all provisional posts should be discontinued with effect from 1 January 1972 and that the number of external consultants engaged by the United Nations should be substantially reduced.

61. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the authors of the draft resolution to reduce expenditure and to improve the efficiency of the Secretariat. Nevertheless, in view of

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17.

the need for increased efforts towards a more consistent application of the Charter of the United Nations and the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and bearing in mind the particular interests of the developing countries, he wished to advance some observations on the proposed text.

62. At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly had adopted an important document, the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. If subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the proposed draft were implemented strictly, it would seem that some of the programmes and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade would be brought into question. His delegation therefore proposed to the author of the draft that they should insert after subparagraph (b) a text unequivocally stating that under no circumstances would the implementation of the Second United Nations Development Decade be brought into question, since, in his delegation's opinion, the goals and objectives of the Decade should be given priority in the future.

63. He regretted that the Committee did not yet have before it the study on the utilization and distribution of existing staff undertaken by the Administrative Management Service, since it would have been very valuable in the present situation and would have allowed for an impartial review of over-all issues concerning United Nations personnel.

64. With regard to subparagraph (c) of the draft resolution, the proposal made by the Polish representative (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13) was slightly different. The representatives of France, Mexico, Togo, Spain, Colombia, Belgium, the Ukrainian SSR and the Soviet Union had all supported that proposal, to which his delegation also subscribed. He therefore proposed that subparagraph (c) of the USSR draft resolution should be so amended that the Secretary-General should be requested to entrust the study on the experts and consultants hired by different services of the United Nations to the Joint Inspection Unit which, in turn, would report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

65. The Yugoslav delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.5/L.1065 if the considerations it had just advanced were taken into account. If not, it would be obliged to abstain.

66. Mr. TOKINOYA (Japan) said he wished to clarify his delegation's position on General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) concerning the use of working languages, because that question had already been raised by the representatives of Pakistan and India. No specialized agency required adequate and confirmed knowledge of a second language for promotion purposes or made the knowledge of a second language a condition for more rapid passage through the steps within each grade. Accordingly, it would be difficult to maintain the provisions of the United Nations common system with regard to salaries and allowances if the United Nations alone applied such measures. His delegation considered that it would be appropriate and judicious to decide to suspend the application of the measures set out in resolution 2480 B (XXIII) until the Fifth Committee had examined the recommendations of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System, and would support any proposal to that end.

67. Mr. NAUDY (France) pointed out that the representatives of India and Pakistan had already suggested, before the delegation of Japan had done so, that the application of those provisions should be postponed, and the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had made a pertinent statement on the subject at the 1448th meeting. He could not see why it was necessary to suspend the application of a General Assembly resolution which had, moreover, been confirmed by resolution 2736 B (XXV). To adopt that attitude would result in suspending all the rules governing salaries and wages until the Special Committee had completed its survey. A different approach to the problem should be adopted and the views of the Special Committee on the matter awaited, instead of prejudging the results of its work in a discriminatory manner.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 82

**Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/8482, A/8503, A/C.5/1363 and Add.1, A/C.5/1368, A/C.5/1375)**

**Report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit during the period 1 July 1970-30 June 1971 (A/8503, A/C.5/1368)**

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit before the Committee (see A/C.5/1368) was an over-all report which gave a general picture of the activities of the Unit during the period 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1971. In its observations (see A/8503), the Advisory Committee welcomed the improvements in consultation procedures between the Joint Inspection Unit and the other competent organs. The Committee recommended that follow-up of the Inspectors' recommendations must not lead to a proliferation of documentation. The procedures for the handling of Joint Inspection Unit reports had given rise to some criticism in previous years but in the 12-month period under consideration there had been an improvement, and no unreasonable delays had been experienced. The Advisory Committee felt that the volume of related documentation could be further reduced; it questioned the usefulness of giving general distribution to the observations of the specialized agencies which were received after the reports to which they related had been considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council. Finally, in paragraph 7 of its report, the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to the need for all organs concerned to present their views on the future of the Joint Inspection Unit in time to enable the General Assembly to examine the question at its twenty-seventh session.

2. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation intended to make some remarks at a later date on the need for better evaluation of the activities of the United Nations system and the role the Joint Inspection Unit should play in the process.

3. Mr. NAUDY (France) paid tribute to the work of the Joint Inspection Unit, which contributed to the appraisal of the Organization's shortcomings and suggested remedies. He

\* Resumed from the 1445th meeting.

emphasized the independence of the Joint Inspection Unit and the originality of the views it expressed and the solutions it proposed; the varied backgrounds and manifold outlooks of its members greatly enriched their work. His delegation accepted the conclusions concerning the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in the Advisory Committee's report.

AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (for the A/... and A/C.5/... documents, see the 1453rd meeting; A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18, E/5038)**

**Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued) (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18)**

4. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) said that the minimum run for publications in Spanish was 3,000 copies, not 200 as the representative of Colombia had said at the previous meeting. Exceptionally, 1,500 copies had been run of some documents relating to the work of the International Law Commission intended for specialists, but that number had been sufficient.

5. In reply to another question by the Colombian delegation, he said that consideration was being given to the most effective ways and means to utilize the field resources of the Office of Public Information and UNDP. In some cases, the result could be that a resident representative of UNDP would function as an information director and vice versa. The Administrative Management Service had made recommendations in that regard which would be considered shortly by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subsequently by the Fifth Committee.

6. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation wondered if it was wise to entrust functions normally carried out by information specialists to UNDP resident representatives, who were, by definition, experts in development.

7. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that the replies of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information at the previous meeting to his delegation's questions were not quite complete. He wished to know why Governments of



developing countries were asked to contribute when an information centre was established in their territory, although developed countries in which information centres were established were not required to do so.

8. He shared the Colombian delegation's concern at the integration of certain information centres with the offices of the UNDP resident representatives and would like further details of such arrangements.

9. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) supported the representative of Indonesia. He, too, wanted to know why, although in many cases the Governments of developing countries provided premises for the information centres, developed countries did not do so, thus obliging the United Nations to pay rent.

10. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) pointed out that the Italian Government had provided offices in the city centre for the information centre at Rome.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

**SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (continued)**  
(A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13 TO 15, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/REV.1)

11. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), recalling the Organization's financial crisis and the need to effectively remedy the situation without delay to prevent the Organization's sinking into a state of permanent insolvency, welcomed with satisfaction the draft resolution submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.5/L.1065), which deserved detailed consideration. He subscribed to the general provisions of the draft resolution which, if adopted, would halt the proliferation of unproductive committees and commissions, which were the direct cause of the increase in staff and hence of the expansion of the Organization's budget. However, he wished to submit some amendments to operative subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the draft resolution, which, if implemented in its entirety, would be too restrictive and would leave no freedom to manoeuvre, if it should become absolutely necessary to increase staff resources in given sectors. Consequently, he proposed that operative subparagraph (a) should be replaced by the following:

“(a) To adopt new, effective administrative measures calculated to maintain as much as possible the manning table of the Secretariat of the United Nations at the 1971 level for the year 1972, taking into account that discretionary powers be given to the Secretary-General after consultation with the Controller when the need for certain appointments is imperative provided these appointments fall within the limits of the new posts the Secretary-General has called for.”

He considered it most important that, in every case, there should be consultations with the Controller. In that connexion, he would point out that the principle of geographical distribution should not be applied rigidly because it frequently led to the manning of the Secretariat with inefficient or incompetent staff.

12. He proposed the replacement, in operative subparagraph (b) of the draft resolution, of the word “all” by “most” and the insertion, after the phrase “with effect from 1 January 1972”, of

“by implementing a comprehensive plan which envisages an approximate annual 5 per cent elimination of the present staff, for a period of three years, without due hardship if possible, to be achieved by the pooling of Professional and secretarial work in departments, where feasible”.

That addition was intended to permit the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the elimination of all unnecessary posts.

13. He then proposed the addition of a new subparagraph (c) which would read:

“(c) To request the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments to keep under constant review the cost of living index and to take into consideration the impact of inflation on staff salaries in view of the fact that cost of living statistics do not to a large extent apply to international employment conditions, especially in so far as the rental component is concerned.”

He had drawn attention to the rental component because it represented more than 25 per cent of the salary of certain categories of staff members.

14. The existing operative subparagraph (c) would become subparagraph (d) and should be amended by the insertion, after the word “urgently”, of the words “in the light of subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) above”.<sup>1</sup>

15. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana) said that the USSR draft resolution was not without merit; it emphasized the need for greater financial discipline and called for greater productivity and the avoidance of duplication. His delegation nevertheless had serious reservations with regard to the elimination of all provisional posts proposed for conversion to established posts in 1972, and the elimination of the balance of new established posts proposed for that year—whose adverse implications for programmes had been clearly spelt out in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.15, relating to the financial and administrative implications of the draft resolution.

16. His delegation had also studied with interest the five-point proposal made by the United States at the previous meeting with regard to section 3 (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1).<sup>2</sup> Briefly stated, point 3 of the proposal would delay the filling of new established posts by approximately 10 months in 1972 and that of established General Service posts by some five months. It was proposed in point 4 that the expenditure level in 1972 for chapters II, III and IV of section 3 should be maintained at the 1970 level, notwithstanding the fact that the level of expenditure for 1972 had been greatly affected by the increase in the cost of certain contractual services approved at the twenty-

<sup>1</sup> The text of the amendments was circulated as document A/C.5/L.1067.

<sup>2</sup> For the text, see A/8531/Add.1, para. 25.



fifth session of the General Assembly. If the proposal in point 4 was accepted, it would have injurious repercussions for bodies such as ECA, ECAFE, ECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut which were carrying out work programmes of considerable interest to developing countries.

17. The USSR and United States proposals were both inspired by the need, as those delegations saw it, for austerity measures. The Secretary-General had already indicated, in his statement to the Committee at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376), that if substantial contributions were not forthcoming from the larger contributors to liquidate the growing indebtedness of the United Nations, he would see no alternative to proposing restrictive measures, arbitrary in nature and potentially disruptive of important activities and services. The Secretary-General had subsequently been criticized for not implementing that declaration of intent and the proposals currently before the Committee were perhaps intended to expedite matters and to dispel any lingering doubts which the Secretary-General might have entertained.

18. His delegation did not see any connexion between the indebtedness of the United Nations and the level of the budget. The Organization's indebtedness had originated in the United Nations peace-keeping operations in the Congo and the Middle East, which had been carried out despite the reservations expressed by certain Powers. While respecting the positions of principle of those Powers and their refusal to pay their share of the expenditure, he hoped that they would follow the example of France, which had made a voluntary contribution of almost \$4 million (see A/C.5/1384).

19. His delegation had pointed out during the general discussion that the growing debt servicing burden of the developing countries was such that their ability to carry out investment policies was likely to suffer, given their weakening terms of trade. The decision taken by the United States Congress on 10 November 1971 to double the interest rate on loans to developing countries, with the exception of Latin America, would increase the debt servicing burden of the developing countries still further. He hoped that the United States Congress would reconsider its decision which, according to Senator Edward Kennedy, was seeking totally to divorce the United States from the underdeveloped nations of the world.

20. He recalled that, at the twenty-fifth session, the Secretary-General had proposed maintaining the 1971 Secretariat manning table at the level approved for 1970.<sup>3</sup> During the current session, the USSR draft resolution proposed that the manning table should be maintained at its present level and the United States proposal would even further reduce the 1972 level to such an extent as to bring it below that of 1971. Perhaps, in putting forward those proposals, those delegations had not taken into account the need to extend United Nations programmes to the new Member States. He hoped that the well-meaning sentiments expressed by the Member States as a whole during the formulation of the International Development Strategy for

the Second United Nations Development Decade would not prove to be mere words of exhortation, and he urged the Committee not to take a decision which would have far-reaching consequences for the future of programmes and frustrate the hopes of developing countries. The success of the Second Development Decade called for the transfer of resources from the richer to the poorer countries. The flow of such capital was steadily declining, despite the launching of the Second Development Decade, and the gap between the richer and the poorer countries was steadily widening. He earnestly called on the major Powers and on all developed countries to help the developing countries to help themselves.

21. His delegation was also very much concerned by the increase in administrative costs by comparison with the promotion of programmes, although the recent increases in administrative costs had been brought about by a rise in the cost of contractual services over which the Secretary-General had no control. The Administrative Management Service was handling the crucial question of the more effective utilization and deployment of the existing staff and it was to be hoped that any duplication found by the Service would be eliminated. His delegation's position with regard to section 3 would largely be influenced by the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

22. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) pointed out that a study of the financial implications (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.15) of the USSR draft resolution would show that, as the Ghanaian representative had pointed out, that text would significantly affect the activities of the regional economic commissions, which were of crucial importance for the developing countries. He recognized the need to increase the productivity of the Secretariat staff but hoped that the USSR representative would agree to amend his text so that it would not harm the interests of the developing countries.

23. Mr. BENDER (United States) said that his delegation's proposal had been misunderstood by the representative of Ghana. The United States delegation had not proposed that the Secretariat manning table in 1972 should be reduced to a level below that for the financial year 1971. The proposal was primarily intended to reduce the number of consultants and temporary assistance and the amount of overtime, and would have no significant repercussion on the regional economic commissions.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that a statement of the financial implications of the United States proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1) would be issued shortly.

25. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the Chairman had informed the representative of Japan that the suggestion that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXV) should be suspended was to be considered when the Committee took up agenda item 84 on personnel questions. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, however, had proposed (1425th meeting) that consideration of that item should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session.

26. His own delegation, and those of Japan and Pakistan, in no way intended to challenge the contents of resolution 2736 B (XXV) which the General Assembly had adopted in

<sup>3</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 73, document A/C.5/1309, para. 18.

1970 by an overwhelming majority; they merely suggested that its implementation should be delayed. If their proposal was considered simultaneously with personnel questions, there was a danger that considerations alien to the very simple issue of the suspension of that resolution would be introduced and needlessly complicate the debate.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that most of the documents the Committee should have had before it for agenda item 84 relating to personnel questions were not ready; it should decide therefore whether it wished to discuss that item. At the same time, it could decide on the agenda item under which it wished to discuss the suggestion by the Indian delegation.

28. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he thought the suggestion should be discussed at the same time as the personnel questions. Should the Committee decide to delay the implementation of the resolution, it would be able to take the implications of that decision into account during the second reading of the budget estimates.

*Format of the reports of the Fifth Committee  
(A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16)*

29. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that the main aim of the draft decision submitted by his delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16) was to exclude from the reports of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly any account of discussions giving the various opinions expressed by the members of the Committee without identifying the delega-

tions. The opinions of the delegations were already set out, and more completely, in the summary records. If his delegation's proposal were accepted, it would be possible to save nearly \$10,000 a year, not to mention the time and efforts of the Committee and the Office of Conference Services staff. The First Committee, the Special Political Committee, and the Second and Fourth Committees had already adopted that format for their reports.

30. In connexion with subparagraph (e) of his draft, he explained that he felt the report should mention all proposals, suggestions and amendments formulated by the various delegations, giving the date, the result of the voting, and the text of the Committee's final decision.

31. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported the Hungarian representative's proposal, on the understanding that in subparagraph (d) the "mention of any oral statements made before the Committee", meant that the report should show only the date and the number of the meeting at which the statement was made.

32. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) confirmed that that interpretation was correct.

33. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) and Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said they thought the Committee should be given time to discuss the proposal.

*The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.*



*Chairman:* Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8506 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 87\* (A/8408/ADD.5,  
A/C.5/1393)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the statement of administrative and financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1393) concerning the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee (A/8506, para. 40). The Secretary-General had estimated that the cost of implementing the draft resolution would amount to \$25,900-\$11,800 under section 3, chapter III and \$14,100 under section 11, chapter III. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended in its related report (A/8408/Add.5) that, should the General Assembly adopt the Sixth Committee's draft resolution, the costs of implementation should be met from within the resources to be made available in 1972.

2. Observing that no delegation wished to speak on the item, he suggested that the Fifth Committee should request the Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly directly that, should it approve the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee, the costs involved would amount to a total of \$25,900; however, the Fifth Committee recommended that, should that be the case, the expenses involved should be met from within the resources to be made available in the normal manner for 1972. Accordingly, no additional appropriation would be required.

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 82**

**Implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/8482, A/8503, A/C.5/1363 and Add.1, A/C.5/1368, A/C.5/1375)**

**Report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit during the period 1 July 1970-30 June 1971 (continued) (A/8503, A/C.5/1368)**

3. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the functions of the Joint Inspection Unit were particularly useful in the field, where the activities of various bodies sometimes overlapped. By

\* Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fourth session.

listening to their views, the Unit served to raise the morale of staff members situated at duty stations far from the headquarters of their various agencies. Since the General Assembly would, at its twenty-seventh session, review the role of the Joint Inspection Unit, it would be inappropriate at the present stage to express a judgement on its effectiveness as part of the co-ordinating machinery of the United Nations system of organizations. Nevertheless, the great value of the Joint Inspection Unit, which acted in a very independent manner—sometimes as individuals and sometimes as small teams—could not be denied. The more the Unit could reduce its reports to matter-of-fact examinations of situations and to conclusions which could be easily grasped and put into effect both by field offices dealing with local authorities and by the headquarters of the various United Nations agencies, the more commendable its work would be.

4. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, bearing in mind the forthcoming review of the Joint Inspection Unit, in which the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would participate, there was much wisdom in the comment made in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8503) on the activities of the Unit during the period 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1971. In future discussions on the Joint Inspection Unit, the Fifth Committee should be mindful of the General Assembly's concern to avoid proliferation of bodies dealing with co-ordination, inspection and control. Those responsible for reporting to the General Assembly on the matter should consider carefully which of the many bodies dealing with such questions were necessary and which could be dispensed with.

5. The Unit's reports should be shorter and contain precise recommendations to the General Assembly concerning specific means of improving procedures and correcting the errors detected by the inspectors; straightforward reports on inspections proper, rather than academic dissertations or philosophical theses, were what the Committee required. In some instances, the complexity of the reports it produced defeated the purpose of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. In conclusion, he expressed misgivings concerning the practice whereby inspectors came to the General Assembly to try to persuade delegations of the quality and acceptability of the ideas put forward in some of the Unit's reports.

7. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that, because of their length, Joint Inspection Unit reports often received but scant attention from the governing bodies of United Nations agencies. The Unit should concentrate on matters of topical interest to all agencies, its reports should be as brief as possible and they should provide clear summaries of

their contents and recommendations. If they followed that pattern, they might receive more adequate treatment, both in the Fifth Committee and in the governing bodies of the agencies.

8. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) expressed appreciation of the valuable functions performed by the Joint Inspection Unit, which rendered considerable assistance to the Fifth Committee in the discharge of its functions and made a significant contribution to the co-ordination and control work of the Organization in general.

9. Full and effective use should be made of the Unit in accordance with its terms of reference. Accordingly, it was important that Member States, through the legislative bodies of the United Nations system of organizations, should continue to propose new subjects for review by the Unit. In this connexion, he repeated the Polish proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13)<sup>1</sup> that the Unit review the use of consultants and report on the matter to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. In its work, the Unit should concentrate on problems of interest to all members of the United Nations family of organizations.

10. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) expressed his delegation's admiration of the work performed by the Joint Inspection Unit and individual inspectors. While it would be inappropriate to hold a detailed discussion of the Unit's work at the present stage, the Committee should consider when to take up some of the subjects mentioned in the Unit's report (see A/C.5/1368). In paragraph 26 of annex I of the report, for example, there was a reference to the introduction of programme budgeting and the arrangements made by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in that connexion. It seemed obvious that that question should be taken up when the Committee discussed the question of the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He hoped that at some point in its deliberations the Committee would decide under which agenda items certain of the Unit's reports would be discussed.

11. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the useful work performed by the Joint Inspection Unit. Nevertheless, it would be interested to learn what became of the reports submitted by the Unit. A progress report should be submitted indicating the stage reached in the implementation of the Unit's recommendations and also indicating, with reasons, which of the recommendations had been disregarded.

12. In conclusion, he emphasized that Joint Inspection Unit reports should be brief. The report the Unit was to prepare on consultants, for example, should be no longer than 15 or 20 pages. It was difficult to digest long reports, such as that on personnel problems.<sup>2</sup>

13. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee would have an opportunity to discuss the work of the Joint Inspection Unit in greater detail at the twenty-seventh

session of the General Assembly. Nevertheless, he hoped that the comments made during the current discussion would be brought to the Unit's attention.

14. Unless he heard an objection, he would take it that the Committee accepted the Secretary-General's suggestions (A/C.5/1368, para. 4) concerning the manner of dealing with specific reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

*It was so decided.*

15. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should accept the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 5 of its report (A/8503) and request the Secretary-General to convey the recommendation to the Economic and Social Council.

*It was so decided.*

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly on the item should include a paragraph endorsing the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 7 of its report (*ibid*).

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (for the A/. . . and A/C.5/. . . documents, see the 1453rd meeting; A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1067, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21, E/5038)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (*continued*) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065, A/C.5/L.1067, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13 to 15, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/REV.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21)

17. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that his delegation would comment on the proposals put forward by the United States delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1) when it had had an opportunity to study them and their financial implications (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19) in greater detail. At the present stage, however, it wished to point out that there seemed to be certain cases which should be excluded from the general rule established by those proposals. One such case would seem to be that of the three new posts requested for the establishment of a French language production unit in the Press and Publications Division of the Office of Public Information. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had dealt with that question very pertinently in paragraphs 108 and 110 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 and his delegation saw no reason for disagreeing with the Advisory Committee's

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 76, document A/8531/Add.1, para. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Document A/8454 relating to agenda item 84, issued separately (offset).

opinion in the matter. If the proposals put forward by the United States delegation concerning new permanent posts were adopted, those three new posts would be excluded from the estimates because they had not been recommended or approved by the Administrative Management Service. As the Advisory Committee had pointed out, the posts were intended to respond to a request expressed by the Fifth Committee during the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly after the Administrative Management Service had completed its survey of the Office of Public Information. It was true that, as the Advisory Committee stated, it had been thought that the functions might be performed by existing staff available to the Press and Publications Division. Since the new posts had been created, however, it was to be assumed that that had proved impossible. It would be helpful if the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management could provide information on the matter since, in the opinion of his delegation, the three posts rated very high priority and, unless the functions could be performed by existing staff, they should be retained.

18. Mr. BEAULNE (Canada) said that while the austerity measures proposed by the United States delegation were worthy of attention, some of them seemed to go beyond the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. In particular, the proposal that only new posts approved by the Administrative Management Service should be approved would have the effect of eliminating the three posts requested by the Secretary-General with a view to re-establishing the French language production unit on a permanent basis in the Press and Publications Division of the Office of Public Information. It should be noted, in that connexion, that the unit would be re-established, not created, because until 1958 there had been a French section in the Press and Publications Division but, as a result of an administrative reorganization, it had, with no proper decision having been taken on the subject, been quietly removed.

19. Before the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly he, together with the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and Tunisia to the United Nations, had approached the Secretary-General to request that, in both New York and Geneva, statements, speeches and press releases, which at that time appeared in English only, should also be issued in French. On 8 October 1970, the Secretary-General had said that he would take steps to rectify the situation and on 30 October he had undertaken to set up a small French unit in the Press and Publications Division. At the 1395th meeting of the Fifth Committee on 24 November 1970, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had told the French-speaking delegations that there was no lack of willingness on the part of the Secretariat to ensure that the publications of the Office of Public Information were issued in French, but that the new work did not necessarily involve the creation of new posts. According to the Under-Secretary-General, the work in question was being done, on an experimental basis, partly by using existing staff resources and partly by using provisional posts. Furthermore, the Under-Secretary-General had assured the representative of Tunisia that the unit would be maintained but had added that the Secretary-General must be given time to organize it. Finally, the Fifth Committee had included in its report to the General

Assembly a paragraph<sup>3</sup> stating that it considered that if the Office of Public Information was to carry out properly the tasks entrusted to it, it would have to maintain on a permanent basis a unit large enough to provide the necessary French language services. The maintenance of those services, the Committee had added, would call for an appropriate distribution of the staff and resources available to the Press and Publications Division.

20. In the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3), the Secretary-General had requested three new posts to establish on a permanent basis a French language production unit in the Press and Publications Division which had been authorized on a provisional basis for 1971. In paragraph 110 of its first report, the Advisory Committee had stated it did not object to the three posts but had suggested that the function for which they were intended might be carried out by existing staff available to the Press and Publications Division. There was no reason to believe that the Advisory Committee's opinion on the matter differed from that of the Administrative Management Service.

21. The disturbing feature of the United States proposals was that they would eliminate permanent posts requested by the Fifth Committee at the twenty-fifth session but not recommended by the Administrative Management Service. The Committee was not aware of the reasons for the Service's recommendations or of the criteria governing the priority attached to recommended posts. Moreover, it did know that the Administrative Management Service survey had been completed when it (the Fifth Committee) had made its request at the twenty-fifth session and it was entitled to suppose that the Advisory Committee's opinion in the matter did not differ from that of the Service. In short, neither the Administrative Management Service nor the Advisory Committee was opposed to the establishment of permanent posts in the French language production unit. What they desired was that the best use should be made of existing personnel and they both considered that existing means available to the Press and Publications Division were sufficient to enable it to set up a permanent French service without adding to its manning table.

22. His delegation greatly appreciated the high quality of the work performed by the French language production unit and was anxious that the unit should not be exposed to the hazards it had faced in the past. It insisted, therefore, that it should be re-established on a permanent basis. In the circumstances, he requested the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to inform the Committee whether it was essential, in order to establish the French language production unit in the Press and Publications Division on a permanent basis, to create the three new posts, which would be excluded under the general rule laid down in the United States proposal. If the reply was in the negative, the Under-Secretary-General should give the Committee the formal assurance that the French language production unit would be established on a permanent basis by means of redeployment of staff in the Press and Publications Division.

23. Mr. ROUX (Belgium) expressed his delegation's concern at the first of the proposals put forward by the United

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 73, document A/8099, para. 91.

States delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1) and at the provisions of subparagraph (a) of the operative paragraph of the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union (A/C.5/L.1065). Foreign correspondents, of all languages, accredited to the Organization had often congratulated the members of the French language unit on the quality and rapidity of their work. Several delegations, the regional economic commissions and the information centres also relied on the unit's work and were invariably satisfied with the service they received. Yet, under the United States and Soviet proposals, the three posts required to establish the unit on a permanent basis would not be approved. In the circumstances, he hoped that the United States and Soviet delegations would not insist on their proposals. If they did, he would request that the Committee should defer a final decision in the matter until the Secretary-General had indicated his ideas on the composition of the group. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information should also express his views on the matter for it was essential that the functions of a unit which had given so much satisfaction to so many people should be maintained.

24. Many of his delegation's concerns with respect to section 3 of the budget were reflected in the United States proposals. For the reasons he had given, however, he could not endorse the first proposal in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1.

25. Mr. DILER (Turkey) said that it appeared from the first report of the Advisory Committee that the initial estimate for section 3 would be subject to revision in respect of the requirements of various Secretariat departments for which the Secretary-General intended to submit revised estimates reflecting the findings of the Administrative Management Service surveys. The Service had completed some of its work and it seemed to have reached the conclusion that if the Organization was to function effectively, the staff should be increased, not decreased. The Turkish delegation agreed that there was a need to reduce United Nations expenditures by more efficient utilization of staff but had no difficulty in understanding that the growth in the Organization's economic and social activities necessitated an increase in personnel. That did not mean, of course, that the deployment of existing staff could not be improved. Accordingly, his delegation would give careful consideration to all proposals relating to reductions in staff requirements, provided they did not unduly reduce the level of additional personnel requested by the Secretary-General.

26. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wished to make some changes to the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1065).

27. In the second preambular paragraph, he proposed the insertion after the word "for" of the words "the successful implementation of economic and social programmes by"

28. With regard to operative subparagraph (b), his delegation had decided that the measure was too extreme, and that appropriations should therefore be included for a continuation in 1972 of the provisional staff engaged before 15 November 1971. Bearing in mind that the provisional staff engaged in 1971 were employed mainly in

the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions, his delegation was amending the paragraph in order to dispel the apprehensions voiced by several delegations. However, it proposed in a new operative subparagraph (c) that, from 1 January 1972, the financing of all new provisional posts should be discontinued.

29. The original operative subparagraph (c) had not been intended to make his proposal inconsistent with the one submitted by the representative of Poland in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13. His delegation, together with many others, supported the Polish proposal, and had therefore decided to withdraw the original subparagraph (c).

30. Moreover, the original USSR text might give the impression that his delegation wished to eliminate all appropriations in 1972 for temporary staff under chapter II (Temporary assistance for meetings), chapter III (Other temporary assistance) and chapter IV (Overtime and night differential). While his delegation felt that the employment of temporary staff and the payment of overtime and night differential should be reduced to the minimum, it had made provision in its revised text for certain appropriations under those headings. In that connexion, the United States proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1), which would limit appropriations under each of those chapters to the level for 1970, might make it difficult for the Secretary-General to utilize the appropriations most effectively. His delegation therefore proposed in operative subparagraph (d) that the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General under chapters II, III and IV of section 2, representing a total of \$7,625,000, should be reduced by 20 per cent, the reduction to be distributed among the three headings by the Secretary-General on the basis of practical considerations. The reduction of 20 per cent was based on the United States proposal to limit the appropriations under those headings to the level for 1970 which, in fact, represented a cut of 20 per cent in the appropriations requested for 1972.

31. In making those changes in its draft resolution, his delegation hoped to allay the apprehension of some delegations that the draft would be detrimental to the implementation of the economic and social programmes for the Second United Nations Development Decade. In that connexion, it wished to add a new subparagraph, which would now become operative subparagraph (e), reading as follows:

"(e) To request the Secretary-General to organize the work of the existing staff of the Secretariat and the secretariats of the regional economic commissions in such a manner that the measures incumbent upon the Secretariat in connexion with the Second United Nations Development Decade can be carried out in full."

32. The Soviet delegation supported the requests made by the delegations of France, Canada, Belgium and other countries for the reinstatement of the French language unit in the Press and Publications Division of the Office of Public Information, as it had done during the discussion on that question at the twenty-fifth session. Furthermore, it had become known that a similar service for the countries of Eastern Europe had also been abolished without suffi-

cient reason being given. It should be possible to reinstate both services without any addition to the manning table, by redeploying existing staff of the Office of Public Information, filling existing vacancies and using temporary assistance under chapter III.

33. While the Saudi Arabian amendments (A/C.5/L.1067) to the original text of the USSR draft resolution were largely in keeping with the aims of the draft, the provision whereby discretionary powers would be given to the Secretary-General after consultation with the Controller would enable appointments to be made within the limits of the new posts that the Secretary-General had originally called for. The Controller worked in close co-operation with the Secretary-General and would consequently find it difficult to oppose the Secretary-General's recommendations.

34. The Saudi Arabian proposal calling for an annual 5 per cent elimination of the present staff, for a period of three years, without undue hardship if possible, to be achieved by the pooling of Professional and secretarial work in the departments, where feasible, was of considerable interest and merited wide support. Such a measure would counteract the tendency for the establishment to increase year after year. However, if the Committee was able to support the USSR revised draft resolution,<sup>4</sup> his delegation felt that the solution proposed by the representative of Saudi Arabia would not be necessary in 1972, and the amendment had consequently not been included in the revised text.

35. With regard to the request to the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments contained in paragraph 3 of the Saudi Arabian amendments, the USSR delegation felt it was inappropriate to consider salary matters, since they were at present under consideration by the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System. His delegation was guided in its view by the consideration that the Expert Committee had its own criteria for determining post adjustments, and any suggestions made by the Fifth Committee for a change in those criteria might not accord with the recommendations of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System.

36. Bearing in mind that the Saudi Arabian amendments deserved serious attention, he asked the representative of Saudi Arabia to consider a reformulation of his proposals in the form of a separate draft resolution. However, since, in the main, many provisions of the United States text (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1) were parallel to those of the USSR draft resolution, he felt that it might be possible for the delegations of the USSR, the United States and Saudi Arabia to hold consultations regarding their respective texts with a view to producing a single agreed draft.

37. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia) said that his delegation had always shared the general concern at the financial crisis of the United Nations but felt, like the developing countries, that it was wrong to confuse the problem of the deficit with the level of the budget for 1972. Moreover, the efforts of the major contributors to limit the growth in the budget by introducing economies indiscriminately could adversely affect the functioning of the Organization.

38. His delegation had consequently been alarmed at the proposals recently submitted by the USSR and United States delegations regarding section 2. It particularly had in mind the effect of the United States proposals on the future of the French language unit in the Office of Public Information. Those proposals would result in the elimination of the three new posts which had been provided for that unit in the budget estimates for 1972 in accordance with the recommendation made by the Fifth Committee in 1970. Furthermore, the creation of those posts had been requested by the Advisory Committee. It appeared that the sole reason why the United States delegation proposed the elimination of those posts was that the Administrative Management Service had already concluded its study when the Fifth Committee had made its recommendation for an increase in staff of the unit, which had previously consisted of only one Professional.

39. He recalled that after his delegation, together with several other French-speaking delegations, had spoken on the question at the twenty-fifth session, the Committee had decided to include in its report a recommendation that the unit be strengthened. He could not understand why it was necessary to request the Committee to reconsider a decision which it had taken as recently as the previous session. He was aware that the Office of Public Information should have strengthened the unit with the resources already available within the Press and Publications Division, but no other official in the Division was French-speaking, and he understood that it had been difficult to find a second Professional for the unit.

40. He wished to stress as forcefully as possible the need which his and other French-speaking delegations felt to strengthen the French language unit. His delegation was all the more appreciative of the work of that unit, particularly its excellent daily bulletin, since very few of the officials in his delegation understood English sufficiently well to utilize the mass of daily press releases published in English by the Office of Public Information.

41. His delegation wished to point out that French had been used by 34 out of 116 speakers participating in the general discussion at the current session, while English had been used by 53. It would be unreasonable to penalize the large number of delegations—often equipped with a very small staff—which used French. That was why his delegation, without prejudice to the reservations which it would express concerning other aspects of the USSR and United States proposals, particularly in the field of economic and social development, requested that the staff of the French language production unit be maintained in 1972, as recommended by the Advisory Committee. In that connexion, he hoped to receive the assurances of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

42. Finally, his delegation was also interested in the point raised by the USSR delegation concerning the Russian language service. Perhaps the Office of Public Information might translate into Russian, Arabic and other languages the excellent daily bulletins produced by the French unit.

43. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland) pointed out that his delegation had invariably supported budget reductions suggested by the Advisory Committee, which was in an

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1.



excellent position to judge the proposals put before it by the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee was in session most of the year and its recommendations were both considered and informed. For those reasons, his delegation would support them. It had been argued that 1971 was an exceptional year and that existing practices must be reconsidered on account of the Organization's deficit. His Government was well aware of the deficit as it was owed in excess of \$1 million on account of the Cyprus peace-keeping operations alone. Nevertheless, he emphatically endorsed the representative of Ghana's comment (1454th meeting) that there was no connexion between the indebtedness of the United Nations and the level of its budget. The deficit could be liquidated only through measures aimed at the root of the problem, not by nibbling away at the current budget.

44. The USSR draft resolution would reduce the budget by some \$2,100,000, approximately 1.5 per cent of the deficit of \$180 million. If the proposal was aimed at reducing the deficit, its over-all effect would obviously be negligible. Moreover, the reduction was concentrated in the particular field of economics and development and could, at the very least, have a demoralizing effect on the developing countries. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against the USSR proposal, as well as that of the United States.

45. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) recalled that, at the previous meeting, his delegation had drawn attention to the fourth proposal of the United States that the expenditure for chapters II, III and IV of section 3 should be maintained in 1972 at the 1970 level and to the adverse repercussions which that decision could have on the regional economic commissions. He had therefore welcomed the United States representative's assurance that the decision was not intended to have an adverse effect. He was still concerned, however, because the absence of increased staff productivity and the rising costs of contractual services, over which the Secretary-General had no control, would make it extremely difficult for the Secretary-General to implement the decision. His delegation therefore maintained its position with regard to the inclusion of the proposal in question. His delegation would welcome clarification of the effect of the application of the turnover deduction indicated in the United States' third proposal. His impression was that it would increase the delayed recruitment factor for established posts in 1972 to some nine months.

46. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that he had welcomed the USSR representative's explanation of the effect of his proposal on the regional economic commissions and, consequently, the development of developing countries. He had also welcomed the changes which the USSR representative wished to make in his own draft resolution. In reality, the USSR and United States proposals were both directed to the same end and he had been gratified by the USSR representative's suggestion for consultations between the USSR, Saudi Arabian and United States delegations. A single text would obviously expedite the Committee's work and resolve certain of his delegation's doubts concerning the impact of the United States proposals on the effective functioning of the regional economic commissions.

47. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) said that the effect of the retrenchment inherent in the USSR and United States

proposals on the economic and social programmes of the Second United Nations Development Decade could usefully be discussed by the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat on the one hand and the policy-making organs for those programmes, such as the Economic and Social Council, on the other.

48. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) drew attention to the last sentence of point 4 of his delegation's proposals, the revised text of which appeared in A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1. His delegation had found in consultations that there was a general feeling that the retrenchment proposed in point 4 should be applied to individual experts and consultants rather than to other temporary assistants generally. It had therefore added an extra sentence to that effect.

49. Referring to the representative of Ghana's remarks on the turnover deduction, he said that his delegation's view was that the Secretary-General should delay as long as possible the recruitment of all except essential staff in 1972. The turnover deduction would therefore result in a recruitment delay which, on the average, would extend to some 10 months.

50. As to the comments by various delegations concerning the effect of his delegation's proposal on the French language unit, he wished to point out that his delegation had never opposed that unit and its proposal was not directed to it.

51. Mr. JEREMIC (Yugoslavia) endorsed the comments made by the representatives of Colombia and the Philippines concerning the implications for the Second Development Decade of the proposals before the Committee.

52. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), referring to comments made during the debate on the French language unit, said that his predecessor had informed the Committee at the previous session (1395th meeting) that the French language service established on an experimental basis in connexion with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations would be continued and that it would be for the Secretary-General to find the necessary resources. At that time, it had been hoped that those resources could be found within the budgetary allocation for the Office of Public Information but, following the manpower survey of the Office, the Controller and the Administrative Management Service had recognized that two new Professional posts and one General Service post would be necessary to continue the service.

53. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that the very helpful statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management meant that the posts in question, having been approved by the Administrative Management Service, were not excluded as a result of his delegation's proposal.

54. Mr. TURNER (Controller) confirmed the United States representative's statement concerning the effect of the turnover deduction in point 3 of the United States proposals. It would mean that the customary delayed recruitment factor would be doubled and that any new posts authorized would be filled, on the average, for



approximately two of the 12 months in question. The turnover deduction would have to be applied with great care. It could be argued that either the new posts were needed, in which case it would be difficult to rationalize the delayed recruitment for them, or they were not—in which case they should never have been approved.

55. It would be premature to comment on the implications of the USSR and United States proposals for the Second Development Decade as they were being revised but he would take it that the Committee would expect a correspondingly revised statement of their administrative and financial implications.

56. As of 31 October 1971, 20 authorized provisional posts had been vacant; they included two vacancies in the Office of Legal Affairs, two in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and 10 in the regional economic commissions.

57. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the USSR representative, said that the East European Radio Service had not been discontinued; its activities had been amalgamated with those of the European Radio Service.

58. Mr. NAUDY (France) took note that the posts approved for the French language production unit would not be affected by the United States proposal.

*Format of the reports of the Fifth Committee  
(continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16)*

59. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a draft decision which had been proposed by the Hungarian representative (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16) concerning the format of the Committee's reports to the General Assembly.

60. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation had never hesitated to agree to any move designed to eliminate superfluous documentation and he had approached the Hungarian proposal in that spirit. He had concluded, however, that the suggested elimination from the report of the accounts of the debates on individual items might do more harm than good. His own delegation made extensive use of the Committee's reports as background material and the summary records were no substitute because they were not published in their final form until long after the debate. Moreover, certain bodies such as the Committee on Contributions made considerable use of the Fifth Committee's reports in their sessions and the availability of those reports undoubtedly expedited their work. If the reports were shortened, delegations would have to devote considerable time and energy to searching for the relevant documentation. In any case, the estimated saving involved was only some \$10,000 and might prove to be even less in practice. He doubted that such an economy would be worthwhile in view of the work which would be created for delegations. The Committee's reports were brief, concise, economical and informative and should be retained in their present form. His delegation would vote against the Hungarian proposal.

61. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation's position was similar to that expressed by the Brazilian represen-

tative. Any change in the established reporting procedures should be considered carefully and undertaken only for serious reasons. The Committee's reports were concise and specific and he would find it difficult to agree to the Hungarian proposal. He also endorsed the Brazilian representative's remark concerning the Committee on Contributions. Nor could he agree that the Fifth Committee's reports were longer than those of the other Main Committees.

62. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) found considerable merit in the Hungarian proposal although it would probably not apply to all of the Committee's reports to the General Assembly. The Committee's report on its consideration of the scale of assessments, for example, consisted of only seven pages and it would serve no useful purpose to shorten it. In recent years, however, the report on the consideration of the budget estimates had not been examined fully for the very reason that it was too voluminous. Much more time could be spent on it if it were briefer. There was no question that other bodies, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions itself, made extensive use of the Fifth Committee reports but the summary records were a source of much richer and more varied information and could be used for the same purpose. He would have no difficulty, therefore, in supporting the Hungarian proposal, although it probably could not be applied to every report produced by the Committee.

63. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that his delegation usually supported proposals to reduce documentation and the Hungarian proposal had a certain merit. The Fifth and Sixth Committees alone prepared their reports on an analytical basis because that allowed decisions to be adopted as paragraphs in the report rather than as separate resolutions. Much discussion and effort was saved in that way. He could agree with the apparent consensus in the Committee that the reports should be shorter; however, they should be prepared on the same analytical basis as hitherto.

64. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that his Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs made considerable use of the Committee's reports in preparing briefs and he therefore did not think that they should be drastically shortened.

65. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) suggested that the Committee should postpone a decision on the format of its reports until it took up the report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426).

66. Mr. GUPTA (India), referring to the Brazilian representative's statement, said that the Committee on Contributions could equally well consult the summary records, which contained nuances not apparent in the Fifth Committee's reports. The practice of Ministries of Foreign Affairs regarding the use of the Committee's reports would obviously vary from one country to another; his own delegation relied on the summary records. He pointed out that the Second Committee, whose work was complex, difficult and even acrimonious, had decided to draft its reports in the manner suggested in the Hungarian proposal and its work had not suffered as a consequence. As to the

question of the degree of savings involved, his delegation was concerned that not a single cent should be spent unnecessarily and the Fifth Committee, especially, should eliminate needless documentation. He endorsed the remarks of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that the Committee's reports, because of their size, received less attention than they deserved from the General Assembly. In that connexion, he pointed out that the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly had been extended by one day because the report of the Fifth Committee was not available; its preparation had been delayed because it was so lengthy. He could not agree that anything had been gained by that extension. The Hungarian proposal was judicious and his delegation co-sponsored it.

67. Referring to the Austrian representative's statement, he said that nothing in the Hungarian proposal would

preclude the Committee from taking decisions in the form of adoption of paragraphs in its reports as opposed to resolutions.

68. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation supported the Hungarian proposal as a significant step towards the reduction of documentation. He pointed out that other Committees which had adopted the format proposed by the Hungarian delegation included references to the relevant summary records in their reports. He agreed that a briefer report on the consideration of the budget estimates would be more likely to receive sufficient attention than a long narrative.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 5, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 to 1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1066 to 1068, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21, E/5038)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)\* (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18)*

1. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced a draft resolution submitted by 14 countries (A/C.5/L.1068) on behalf of all the sponsors. He drew particular attention to the second preambular paragraph because it reaffirmed the early General Assembly enabling resolutions on public information in the United Nations resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, as well as subsequent resolutions on the subject.

2. The third preambular paragraph was designed to recognize the reality that had been created over the preceding 10 years by various intergovernmental bodies in the United Nations. Those bodies would continue, as in the past, to make recommendations embodying policy guidelines on information activities in their respective areas of concern. That point was important in relation to the possibility that new intergovernmental organs might be established and might also wish to arrive at policy decisions concerning information activities. The existing arrangements should continue to apply, and the Secretary-General should continue to be guided by the policy decisions and directives of intergovernmental bodies in his formulation of programmes and implementation of the relevant activities.

3. In connexion with the last preambular paragraph, which referred to the need for maintaining uniformity in imple-

menting information policies and guidelines, he wished to emphasize that the reference was indeed to uniformity of implementation and not to uniformity of policies. That was a most important distinction and he hoped that members of the Committee would bear it in mind in commenting on the draft resolution.

4. Operative paragraph 2 supported the findings in paragraph 261 (i) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1) that the basic principles that had guided the Office of Public Information since its inception had stood the test of time and need not be amended or broadened. It accordingly provided that those principles should continue to apply, but with the very important proviso that they would be subject to past and future directives by the General Assembly. That proviso would give the principles the dynamic character they should have if the United Nations was to adapt to changing circumstances.

5. Operative paragraph 3 would have the General Assembly approve the five-year programme of acquisition and replacement of equipment as contained in annex I of the addendum to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1). The Secretary-General's requests appeared reasonable. The Office of Public Information could not be expected to function efficiently if it was not keenly interested in the type of equipment it bought. He thanked the Office for making available a list of the existing equipment and other relevant information, which indicated that there was a good case for adoption of the Secretary-General's proposals. Much of the existing equipment was 20 years old, and in view of rapid changes in techniques, must be regarded as obsolete.

6. Operative paragraph 4 endorsed some of the conclusions in paragraph 261 of the Secretary-General's report. It was not a blanket endorsement, as some of the recommendations were covered by other paragraphs in the draft resolution: for example, the recommendations in subparagraphs 261 (i) and (ii) were covered by the first preambular paragraph and by operative paragraph 2. The United Republic of Tanzania had originally considered that the proposal in subparagraph 261 (xiii) should be adopted by the General Assembly in a different form; however, after consultations with other countries, including those from the areas served, it had decided to support the proposal as it stood.

7. Operative paragraph 5 emphasized the need for the United Nations information centres to be manned by highly qualified Professional staff who could devote their full attention to information work. It sometimes happened that the UNDP Resident Representative acted on behalf of the United Nations as information officer. There was no objection to that, but in those cases the Resident Represent-

\* Resumed from the 1454th meeting.

tative should have on his staff an official appointed by the United Nations and devoted wholly to information work. Accordingly, if the post of Resident Representative were abolished in any country, it should not be necessary to appoint a new information official to take his place. In every office dealing with United Nations information activities, there should be highly qualified officials appointed by the United Nations.

8. Operative paragraph 7 dealt with another important point. In the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the Office of Public Information had a crucial role to play in terms of its responsibilities to UNCTAD and UNIDO. If there was to be no unnecessary expansion of the existing information units in those two organizations, then the Office of Public Information must make sure their information needs were met. In the past, the Office had not always been sufficiently responsive to their requests for additional information. Steps must be taken to ensure that that did not happen in future.

9. Turning to operative paragraph 8, he said that since the Office of Public Information had been established by the General Assembly, the Assembly was justified in taking an interest in the Office's organization. That did not imply any interference with the powers of the Secretary-General as the executive head of the Secretariat, one of the main organs of the United Nations under the terms of the Charter. But when a unit established in the Secretariat impaired the implementation of policies, the Assembly had the right and duty to comment on the organizational set-up and to recommend the adoption of certain measures. That was the purpose of operative paragraph 8. He did not wish to pass judgement on the principle of the functioning of the Centre for Economic and Social Information. The voluntary contributions to the Centre were highly commendable, but if the objectives for which those funds were made available were to be achieved, then the organizational set-up must be changed. It was not necessary as a matter of principle to establish new bodies whenever voluntary funds were contributed for a specific purpose. It appeared that the Office of Public Information was not well suited to carrying out activities of the Centre for Economic and Social Information; he recognized that there were problems, but was not convinced that the existing arrangements for the Centre provided the solution. He thought some reform of the Office of Public Information was needed, including reorganization of sections and perhaps changes in the staff. The Fifth Committee could not tell the Secretary-General how to staff his offices—that was his concern. But it had the right to require the Secretary-General to take certain steps to ensure that the departments of the Secretariat functioned effectively. That was the purport of the second half of operative paragraph 8, and if it was implemented he did not see why the present arrangements, providing for an autonomous unit dealing with information in the economic and social fields, should be maintained. The recommendation in the draft resolution was merely an organizational recommendation; if the Centre was incorporated into the Office of Public Information, it would still be the focus of information activities in its special area.

10. Referring to operative paragraph 9, he said that questions had been asked at the preceding session of the UNDP Governing Council to obtain clarification of the

relationship between what the proposed Development Support Information Service would do and what the Centre for Economic and Social Information was doing. He recognized that the Governing Council was the policy-making organ for UNDP; nevertheless, the General Assembly had made recommendations about the programme in the past, so the recommendation in operative paragraph 9 was not unique. It was important that as much as possible of UNDP funds be spent on specific projects to benefit developing countries. In any case, the executing agencies co-operating with UNDP—including the United Nations—all had their own information programmes, financed from their regular budgets, and could publicize their own UNDP-related activities. Officials in UNDP often said that publicity was needed to convince people that their programmes were worthwhile. Yet all the money spent thus far had not prevented certain United States politicians from trying to cut funds for development. He hoped that any expansion of UNDP information activities would emphasize articles and lectures by UNDP officials addressed, for example, to parliamentarians and universities, which would be far more productive than elaborate pamphlets explaining to the American public how many cents in each dollar of their contributions went, for instance, to combat disease or to help refugees.

11. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the Secretary-General had requested him to make the following statement on his behalf to the Fifth Committee.

12. Certain aspects of the Fifth Committee's debate on information policies and activities had been brought to the Secretary-General's attention. The debate had gone into the question of economic and social information and it was to that part of the discussion that the Secretary-General wished to refer. Questions had been raised regarding the internal administrative arrangements within the Secretariat which the Secretary-General had made in line with his responsibilities under the Charter as Chief Administrative Officer of the Secretariat. Accordingly, he felt it useful to set forth the reasons for the decisions he had taken in order to deal in an effective manner with the complex question.

13. The Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies had indicated that the efficacy of United Nations information in the economic and social fields required improvement. In fact, some bodies had felt it necessary to attempt to establish their own separate units which, they believed, would be more in touch with the substance of the work and consequently able to contribute to a more informed view. Debates both in the UNCTAD Board and the UNDP Governing Council bore witness to that trend.

14. The Centre for Economic and Social Information had been established in 1968 within the framework of the Office of Public Information. One Government—that of the Netherlands—had contributed financially on a voluntary basis to its programme. Other Governments had followed and the Secretary-General wished to convey to them his warm appreciation. In the light of the situation which had existed at the beginning of 1970, the Secretary-General had moved the Centre to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under the direction of the Under-Secretary-

General of the Department. Subsequently, some delegations had expressed the view that the transfer was not entirely in accord with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 13 (I). The Secretary-General had noted those views and, in 1971, had decided to re-establish the Centre within the framework of the Office of Public Information. He had felt, however, that its policy and programmes should be laid down and supervised on his behalf by a committee including the Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Public Information and the heads of the departments whose activities were covered by the Centre. That was an administrative pattern he had followed in other areas, for example, in the cases of the sea-bed and outer space.

15. There seemed no doubt that in a field which covered the whole span of development—and in which effective information depended less on the reporting of United Nations meetings than on explaining issues and encouraging the establishment of education programmes by providing materials about them—the Centre must have the full co-operation of the substantive departments which set their targets and knew their priorities.

16. Indeed, the time was one in which the Secretariat's efforts should be redoubled in line with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV). The comments made in the Fifth Committee's debate would be studied and taken into account and the administrative arrangements would be reviewed in the light of those comments and of the proposals of the Administrative Management Service. The Secretary-General would spare no effort to improve the performance of the information machinery in general, and not least in the field of economic and social development. He would have those purposes very much in mind when implementing relevant decisions taken by the General Assembly on that important subject.

17. Mr. DABLAN (Jordan) said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068. It suggested, however, that the first phrase of operative paragraph 5 should be amended to read:

*“Requests the Secretary-General to appoint as Directors or officers of United Nations information centres highly qualified international staff”.*

18. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that he would confine his comments to the first part of operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068. Indeed, it was not clear from the second part of the paragraph whether the reorganization was supposed to relate to the first part of the paragraph or to constitute a general reorganization.

19. Referring to the first part of operative paragraph 8, he said that the meaning of the word “integrate” often gave rise to discussion; it must, however, be considered a strong word. Canada was very much interested in, and supported, the Centre for Economic and Social Information because it felt that there was a need for the Secretariat to mobilize opinion in favour of development in both the developed and developing countries. The Centre's purposes were more activist than the basic principles under which the Office of Public Information operated.

20. The draft resolution was comprehensive and covered a very large number of different points, some related, but

others rather far removed, from the Secretary-General's report. He hoped, therefore, that the sponsors would reconsider the text and, perhaps after discussing the matter with those delegations which had expressed a special interest in the Centre, at least change the language in some of the paragraphs, particularly operative paragraph 8.

21. The Centre was financed largely from voluntary funds. Canada had made its contribution to a special unit in the Secretariat designed to achieve a special purpose and hoped, therefore, that the Centre would be maintained. If it was totally integrated into the Office of Public Information, it would merely be a part of that Office, whereas under existing arrangements it enjoyed a special identity.

22. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he was sure that the sponsors would be prepared to consider the amendment proposed by the representative of Jordan.

23. He had noted the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, and would have expected it to have been made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information.

24. Referring to the comments made by the representative of Canada, he said that he had explained the reference to the Centre for Economic and Social Information in the draft resolution in the desire to improve the management of the Centre. He had tried to make it clear that the Centre would not be eliminated and that if it came under the Office of Public Information it would, in fact, assume more functions because it would deal with those economic and social matters currently dealt with by the Office. It must be remembered that in two or three years' time the Committee would be faced with recommendations that the Centre should be financed from the regular budget. The proposals in the draft resolution were a first step in that direction.

25. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that practically all aspects of United Nations information policy were dealt with in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068. The text therefore merited careful study. For example, the most wide-ranging operative paragraphs—3 and 4—were the shortest; they should be examined closely and, perhaps, combined.

26. The Secretary-General's message, transmitted by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, had cleared up some of his delegation's doubts concerning operative paragraphs 6 and 8 of the draft resolution. He proposed that, in order to enable delegations to take the statement into account when studying the draft resolution, it should be circulated to members in writing. He further proposed that, in order to enable delegations to consult their Governments on the matter, a decision on the draft resolution should be deferred until a later meeting.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the complete text of the Secretary-General's message would be issued as a press release.

28. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the sponsors had submitted a startlingly comprehensive draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068) encompassing the entire range of informa-

tion activities of the United Nations system. As the representative of the Netherlands had said, members must be allowed sufficient time to examine the text carefully and, if necessary, seek instructions from their Governments. A decision on the matter should, therefore, be deferred for three or four days. The provisions of operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 9, for example, were far-reaching. Furthermore, the difficulties his delegation experienced with respect to operative paragraph 8 had been compounded by the fact that the Secretary-General had spoken with three voices, first, through his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), second, through the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information and, at the present meeting, through the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management. All those matters would have to be very carefully considered before the Committee took a decision on the draft resolution, particularly its operative paragraph 8.

29. In conclusion, he pointed out that, although comprehensive, the draft resolution made no reference to the Consultative Panel on Public Information; the Panel should be mentioned. That was a matter to which the sponsors might pay attention.

30. Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen) said that his delegation supported and would vote for draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068, which embodied the opinions expressed by several delegations on the work of the Office of Public Information.

31. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) agreed with the representatives of the Netherlands and India that the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068) was so comprehensive that members must be allowed time to examine it carefully and, if necessary, obtain instructions from their Governments.

32. Like the representative of India, he was surprised that the Consultative Panel had not been mentioned either in the comprehensive text of the draft resolution or in the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania's oral statement. It would be interesting to know the reasons for that omission. Did the sponsors of the draft resolution intend that it should supersede General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV) of 1 December 1959? It was common knowledge that, theoretically, the Consultative Panel still existed, that many countries from many geographical areas were represented on it and that several delegations had expressed the wish that it should be enlarged to reflect the increased membership of the Organization. In conclusion, he drew attention to the fact that draft resolution A/C.5/L.1066, submitted by the delegation of the Soviet Union, dealt specifically with the Consultative Panel.

33. Mr. BROWN (Australia) recalled that in his statement at the 1450th meeting of the Committee, he had expressed his delegation's doubts concerning the prudence of embarking on the programme for the acquisition and replacement of equipment outlined in annex I of the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1) at a time when the Organization's financial situation was precarious. He had also said, however, that if the Secretariat could show sound economic reasons for undertaking such a programme, his delegation's attitude to the question might be different. It was to be assumed that the Consultative Panel, if reactivated, would look into that question.

Although it dealt with the question of television equipment, document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 did not discuss the relative merits of black and white as opposed to colour television or indicate whether the proposed equipment would be economic or that the cost of the purchase and operation could be paid off quickly. He was raising the matter because it would appear from operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068 that the Committee was being requested to approve the said programme of acquisition and replacement of equipment. It would be desirable to have an indication of the likely income to be derived from the Secretariat's proposal.

34. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would need time to study the very comprehensive draft resolution before the Committee. Like the Indian and Italian representatives, he was surprised at the omission of any reference to the Consultative Panel which, in theory, did exist.

35. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that he would comment in detail on the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068) when his delegation and his Government had had time to consider it carefully. In the meantime, however, he wished to suggest some amendments to the text. It might be useful, for example, if in preambular paragraph 1, the General Assembly were to take note of the statements made by the Secretary-General's representatives and of the delegations' comments, as well as of the relevant report of the Secretary-General and the related reports of the Advisory Committee. Secondly, his delegation did not agree with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that information activities could be performed by UNDP officials with no specialized training in information work. Indeed, the sponsors of the draft resolution seemed to share that opinion because in operative paragraph 9 they proposed that UNDP should entrust as much as possible of information activities to the United Nations and other executing agencies. It might be useful, therefore, if the words "in the field of information" were inserted after the words "professional staff" in operative paragraph 5.

36. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) requested time for further study of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068 and of the Secretary-General's statement to the Fifth committee.

37. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya), speaking as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068, replied to the questions raised by the representatives of India and Italy. He said the aim of the sponsors in drafting the resolution had been to streamline the Office of Public Information and make its work more effective. They had carefully considered whether to refer to the Consultative Panel on Public Information in order to make the draft resolution as comprehensive as possible, but they had come to the conclusion that such a reference might lead to confusion and to a postponement of the whole question until the twenty-seventh session, and should be omitted from the draft.

38. Mr. HAMID (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) said he wished to reply to questions raised at the 1454th meeting by the representatives of Colombia, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania relating to the Office of Public Information policies for staffing United Nations information centres.

39. There had been a change of policy in 1959 following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1405 (XIV). That resolution requested the Secretary-General, in opening new information centres, to enlist the co-operation of the Member States concerned in providing all possible facilities. Before 1960, the United Nations itself had paid the full costs of all 30 information centres. By May 1963, another 14 had been opened, 13 of which received assistance from the host Governments either in the form of rent-free premises or of cash contributions in lieu thereof.

40. In May 1963, the Secretary-General had communicated with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the Member States in which all information centres opened before 1960 were situated and where the United Nations still continued to meet the full operating costs; they included the centres in Moscow, Washington, London and Paris. He had drawn attention to resolution 1405 (XIV) and to the request of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly that attention should be paid to the question of assistance from host Governments in providing premises or meeting rental costs for information centres, and that renewed consideration should be given to obtaining the co-operation of host Governments in those cases where the rental costs were borne by the United Nations. He had also invited the Member States concerned to make contributions towards the future operation of centres in their countries. The response had been largely negative. The major Powers, in most cases, had taken the position that their contribution to the budget of the Office of Public Information was already large enough for the cost of maintaining the information centres to be met from the regular budget. In other cases, willingness to consider a financial contribution was made dependent upon similar action by others concerned. The net result was that there were now 19 centres where premises were provided free by host Governments, another 4 where, in addition to rent-free premises, host Governments provided cash subsidies and 14 where Governments provided cash subsidies only. The centres which were maintained without either rent-free premises or any other contribution from host Governments were located in Cairo, London, Mexico, Moscow, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington and Paris.

41. He said that the Secretary-General would find it helpful if the General Assembly were to appeal to Governments which had not already done so, to contribute to the maintenance of centres in their countries. Apart from helping the United Nations financially, that would have the advantage of eliminating the present inequities: those countries most able to contribute were leaving the burden to others less advantageously placed.

42. In reply to the questions raised at the 1454th meeting by the representatives of Colombia and Indonesia, he wished to reiterate that the Secretary-General had approved the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service made in the light of its review of the Office of Public Information field establishment, and had supplied information on that review to the Advisory Committee, which was currently considering the matter. The decisions

taken by the Secretary-General would be reflected in the form of revised budget estimates shortly to be submitted to the Fifth Committee. Meanwhile, he did not believe it desirable to respond to individual questions concerning the arrangements for the Office of Public Information field establishment.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366)

43. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3), the Secretary-General had proposed an appropriation of \$2,326,800 under that section. In his report on the revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/C.5/1366), the Secretary-General had proposed an additional amount of \$89,300 under that section. The total amount proposed by the Secretary-General was therefore \$2,416,100. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 97 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, had recommended a reduction of \$385,000 in the initial estimates, and in its second report A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1, it had recommended a reduction of \$25,000 in the revised estimates. The total amount recommended for section 2 by the Advisory Committee was therefore \$2,006,100.

44. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, as stated in paragraph 86 of its report, had recommended a total reduction of \$300,000 in the initial estimates for the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. Of that amount, \$230,000 would be saved if the verbatim records were dispensed with. The remaining reduction of \$70,000 reflected the Advisory Committee's belief that the Secretary-General's estimate for the expenses of the Conference for 1972 might have been too high. The question of the need for verbatim records was, however, not one which the Advisory Committee itself was competent to decide.

45. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that, following consultations with a number of delegations, the Secretariat could now suggest that the verbatim records which had always been prepared for the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament should be replaced by a system under which the corrected texts of speeches would be provided by delegations themselves; those texts would then be translated into the other three working languages. The net saving would amount to approximately \$210,000.

46. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden), supported by Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), said he was unaware of any consultations on that matter and would like a clarification.

47. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said he wondered which delegations had been consulted. As far as he knew, his delegation, a member of the Committee on Disarmament, had not been approached. He also wondered whether the

representative of the Secretary-General could supply further details on the operation of the system proposed in place of verbatim records.

48. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that such a system would eliminate some 40 posts required for verbatim reporting, typing and editing. On the other hand, an additional staff of four translators, one reviser and four stenographers would be required.

49. In reply to a formal request by the representatives of Sweden and the Netherlands, he said that the full text of his statement would be circulated as a conference room paper, so that delegations might have the opportunity to study the matter more fully.

50. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that as a member of the Committee on Disarmament, his delegation had misgivings concerning the way in which the matter of

consultations had been dealt with. In the conference room paper containing the text of the statement by the representative of the Secretary-General, it should be clearly stated what consultations had been undertaken and, if they were of a private nature, all reference to any agreement should be omitted from that text.

51. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that he had referred to consultations held by the Secretariat with certain delegations, and that as a result the Secretariat had submitted a concrete proposal. There had been no formal agreement.

52. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) supported the request by the representative of Brazil that the text to be circulated should contain details of what consultations had been undertaken.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)** (for the A/. . . and A/C.5 . . . documents, see the 1456th meeting; A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1066 to L.1068, A/C.5/XXIV/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24, E/5038)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES (continued) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 TO 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22)

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), speaking on the financial implications, as contained in the Secretary-General's note A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, of the proposal to dispense with verbatim records for the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, said the Advisory Committee confirmed the accuracy of the figures given in that note. As stated in paragraph 3 of the note, the net result of providing summary rather than verbatim records would be a reduction of the estimates under section 2, chapter I, by \$210,000 rather than \$230,000, as envisaged by the Advisory Committee in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 84) on the budget estimates for 1972. The over-all reduction in the initial estimates for the section would be \$365,000.

2. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation had always stressed the need to avoid unnecessary expenditure. In that spirit, it had already made some proposals during consideration of individual sections of the budget. It fully supported all such proposals made by other delegations, the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat, and therefore highly appreciated the Advisory Committee's recommendation to reduce the initial estimates for section 2, chapter I, by approximately \$70,000. At the same time, Poland, as a member of the Committee on Disarmament, could not support the Advisory Committee's previous recommendation to eliminate verbatim records: in view of the complexity and crucial importance of the question of disarmament, the members of the Committee on Disarmament required for careful study the full text of statements

made by delegations. Furthermore, the large number of States that were not members of the Committee on Disarmament needed to acquaint themselves with the full proceedings of that body.

3. His delegation had therefore learned with satisfaction that the Secretariat, taking into account the opinions that delegations had expressed in the Fifth Committee, had started consultations with those delegations and had prepared the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22. His delegation would support that proposal.

4. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) replying to questions from the representatives of Japan, Brazil and Mexico concerning the elimination of verbatim records for the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, explained that a distinction must be drawn between substantive statements made by delegations, which would be reproduced *in extenso*, and purely procedural statements, which would appear only in summarized form in the summary record.

5. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that countries like his own, although not members of the Committee on Disarmament, followed its work closely and were greatly assisted by records of the proceedings that were as full as possible. Document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22 indicated that those countries would in fact continue to have access to detailed records of the proceedings of the Conference of that Committee.

6. Turning to the question of future meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, for which no estimates had been given under section 2, he said he assumed that revised estimates would be submitted when the date and venue of that Committee were known.

7. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) replied that the question of the meetings of that Committee was currently before the Sixth Committee, and confirmed that revised estimates based on the outcome of the discussions in the Sixth Committee would be submitted in due course.

8. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), referring to the estimates submitted under chapter X, which concerned the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm, said his delegation shared the Advisory Committee's belief that the costs of public information activities for the Conference were too high. In fact, he believed that the figure might exceed the costs of publicity for the third session of UNCTAD. If that were the case, he felt compelled to express the disappointment of his delegation, representing, as it did, one of the developing countries.

9. He was not clear as to the respective roles of the Office of Public Information and its Centre for Economic and Social Information in connexion with the Conference on the Human Environment. According to the Centre's work programme for 1971-1972, special material would be put out in a "crescendo of activity" as June 1972 approached. At the same time, the number of staff assigned by the Office of Public Information to cover the Conference on the Human Environment was unusually high.

10. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) replying to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, said that the activities of the Centre for Economic and Social Information in connexion with the Conference on the Human Environment were limited to a budget of \$100,000 and would consist of the publication of general documentation prior to the Conference. The appropriations in respect of other divisions of the Office of Public Information would cover the cost of information coverage of meetings of the Conference. In reply to a further question from that representative, he said that if supplementary funds were specifically made available to the Centre, it might also publish information on a certain number of topics after the Conference.

11. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said with reference to chapter I that, in view of his delegation's position on the limitation of documentation, the procedure outlined in the Secretary-General's note was acceptable to his delegation.

12. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) replying to a question raised by the representative of Sweden, said that, under the proposed system, the number of copies of records of the meetings of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to be distributed would be the same as in the case of verbatim records.

13. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands), supported by Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan), requested that the voting on the various proposals before the Committee relating to section 2 be deferred until the following meeting, to enable delegations to receive instructions from their Governments.

*It was so decided.*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (*continued*)\*  
(A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065/REV.1, A/C.5/L.1067, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13 TO 15, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/REV.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.20, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21/REV.1)

14. Mr. VISESSURAKARN (Thailand) said his delegation considered it essential that the recommendations of such responsible and objective bodies as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question and the Administrative Management Service should be taken seriously. Furthermore, international civil servants should receive the adequate remuneration that they deserved. His delegation realized how far the efficiency of the Organization depended on its staff; it was therefore quite logical that a substantial part of the budget should consist of salaries and wages.

15. His delegation considered that the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1) would have an adverse effect on the United Nations. It would mean no more new posts from 1971 onwards, a freeze of staff in 1972 at the 1971 level, and a reduction in the funds for temporary assistance and consultants. His delegation endorsed the view shared by representatives of Tunisia, Ireland and others, that there was no connexion between the financial crisis and the level of the budget. His delegation noted with great interest that, in the face of the steadily expanding and increasingly diverse activities of the United Nations, the Secretariat had over the years steadily reduced its requests for additional posts. Indeed, the Secretary-General should be highly commended for attempting to increase productivity by redeploying staff to handle increased workloads. Since the USSR proposal would confine United Nations activities to routine Secretariat functions, it was unacceptable to his delegation.

16. Turning to the United States proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1), he noted that it aimed at limiting the provision for new posts to 20 per cent of the total amount. That meant, in effect, that for any new posts authorized in the 1972 budget, provision would be made to appoint the applicants for only two months. It currently took about five months to recruit a staff member; the Secretariat therefore requested only enough money to cover seven months' salary in respect of new posts. Under the United States proposal, the delay in recruitment would be prolonged to 10 months. That was unsound management. If the new posts were needed—and they certainly were—they should be filled as soon as possible. The Secretariat should in fact be urged to improve its recruiting system in order to reduce the five months' delay.

17. Under the present budget format, there was no alternative to across-the-board reductions. There was a vital need for programme budgeting and he would give his views on that matter at a later stage.

18. Although there was no detailed information available as to the programmes in which the new posts were required, he understood that most requests for new posts and for temporary assistance and consultants related to activities that were vital for the developing countries in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

19. Despite rising costs, the ceiling placed on the budget and the small increases in new posts reflected the Secretary-General's earnest intention to effect economies. Secretariat units which had not been fully surveyed by the Administrative Management Service had to freeze the number of posts at the current level. For example, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had stabilized its posts at the 1970 level during the 1971 budget year; it would apply the same procedure to the 1972 budget. Yet a certain amount of redeployment had obviously been undertaken, because the scope and level of the Department's activities had increased substantially.

20. In the light of all those considerations, the broad cuts proposed were unacceptable to his delegation.

21. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said his delegation found completely unacceptable the attempt made in the USSR

\* Resumed from the 1455th meeting.

draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1) and in the Saudi Arabian amendment (A/C.5/L.1067) to that draft resolution to maintain the 1972 level of staffing at the 1971 level. It was a reversion to the position taken in 1971 when, on the initiative of the Secretary-General, the manning table for 1971 had been maintained at the level approved for 1970. The Administrative Management Service had in fact recommended an increase in the level of staff for 1972 to reflect the dynamic role of United Nations activities in developing countries. The USSR and Saudi Arabian proposals would run counter to that recommendation. Since increased productivity had not suddenly transformed the standards of the Secretariat staff, the implementation of those proposals would arrest the growth of programmes in developing countries.

22. While there was undoubtedly genuine concern over the financial straits of the United Nations, his delegation wished to reiterate its view that there was no connexion whatsoever between the very different concepts of the level of the budget and the indebtedness of the Organization.

23. Despite the efforts of the USSR delegation to refute the view that the measures which it proposed would harm the role of United Nations programmes in developing countries, his delegation felt that further concessions would have to be made if the proposals were to have the required support.

24. Furthermore, his delegation considered that the Saudi Arabian proposal which would seek to reduce the level of staff by 5 per cent annually over a period of three years would prejudice the fine work being done by the Administrative Management Service, and was therefore totally unacceptable. He wondered whether the representative of the Secretary-General could indicate the effects of that proposal on staffing and on United Nations programmes. Only two days previously (1455th meeting), the USSR representative had given his assurances that his delegation's proposals, as revised, would have no harmful effect on United Nations programmes. Yet it was now clear from document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21/Rev.1 that the administrative and financial implications of the draft in question for the regional economic commissions and other bodies, including the Office of Public Information, were far-reaching. Perhaps the USSR representative could offer a clarification as to whether there had been a misunderstanding, and whether he was prepared to further modify his draft in order to eliminate the injurious effect it would have on programmes.

25. Miss FORCIGNANÓ (Italy) said that in the past Italy had always endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which was an expert body. The financial situation of the United Nations was now so serious that stronger action than that proposed by the Advisory Committee was required concerning section 3.

26. It had been suggested that if there was no increase in staff, development programmes might be affected. She could not agree. Uncontrolled staff expansion did not lead to greater efficiency and productivity; in fact it could have the opposite effect, and could adversely affect programmes. Her delegation would not suggest an across-the-board cut in staff, but it would accept a flexible arrangement, permitting

more cuts in certain areas. The United States proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1) allowed for that and was more balanced than the Soviet proposal (A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1), which did not leave the Secretary-General enough room for manoeuvres in recruitment and did not provide for a single new post in 1972.

27. The United States proposal took account of the situation for 1972 in terms of the request by the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service. In particular, the needs of the regional economic commissions must not be overlooked in deciding what new posts were required. Moreover, paragraph 2 of the United States proposal left some flexibility to the Secretary-General in respect of new posts that might be needed as a result of subsequent decisions by the General Assembly. She considered that paragraph 3 perhaps went too far. She strongly supported paragraph 4, in particular the recommendation that 65 per cent of the reduction under chapter II should, if possible, apply to "individual experts and consultants". Her delegation was not satisfied that the fields concerned were in every case so highly specialized that outside consultants were needed, and that nobody could be found in the Secretariat to provide the necessary services. Perhaps it might even be possible to do better than in 1970 with respect to chapters II, III and IV. She welcomed the suggestion in paragraph 5 that no new provisional posts should be approved for 1972, and that posts approved for 1971 should be carried over into 1972, but not converted into established posts. Her delegation would have supported an even stronger position on that point but was prepared to accept the United States proposal.

28. The Soviet proposal in operative paragraph (b) of its draft resolution went too far, and the arbitrary cut-off date of 15 November 1971 was unrealistic. It might not be advisable to eliminate all provisional posts. She preferred the more precise formulation in paragraph 4 of the United States proposal to that in operative paragraph (d) of the Soviet proposal.

29. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he would vote against the Soviet and United States proposals for the reasons already stated by many other delegations.

30. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he could not recall any session where the Fifth Committee had not accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations. On one occasion his delegation and certain others had, for strong reasons, proposed amendments to the figures recommended by the Advisory Committee; they had then been told by other countries, including some that now proposed revisions in the Advisory Committee's recommendations, that if the expert submissions of the Advisory Committee were not respected in the Fifth Committee, there would be chaos. Admittedly circumstances had changed, but that was a very striking change of attitude by certain delegations.

31. The United States proposal seemed to be linked to the findings of the Administrative Management Service. The Fifth Committee was asked to reject the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and accept those of the Administrative Management Service.

But the Service reported to and advised the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee could not ignore the recommendations of the Secretary-General and accept those of a subsection of the Secretariat. To accept the United States proposal would infringe the powers of the Secretary-General, and conflict with the whole basic approach to the submission of budget estimates that had been accepted from the outset.

32. Consequently, he would vote against the United States proposal and against the Soviet proposal, as well as against any amendment to either proposal. He did not recall that during the general discussion any delegation had expressed its disagreement with the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the budget estimates. The Fifth Committee should adopt those recommendations in accordance with its normal procedure.

33. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation was not opposed to any reasonable increase in staff costs to enable the Organization to discharge its growing responsibilities, particularly in relation to the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Committee could consider reasonable proposals to maintain expenditure at a level that was in line with the Organization's responsibilities, provided that the International Development Strategy was not endangered. His delegation could not support any proposal, including those submitted by the United States and the Soviet Union, to amend, or postpone action on, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. If those proposals were not withdrawn, he would vote against them.

34. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that there was undoubtedly room for an increase in the efficiency of the staff, particularly in view of the grave financial situation. But that should not lead to the imposition of any arbitrary ceiling on staff numbers, particularly in relation to the United Nations role, under Article 55 of the Charter, in promoting economic and social progress. Unnecessary staff expansion must be controlled, but it would be unwise to control it without due regard for needs. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of some \$1.7 million in the amount requested by the Secretary-General for section 3. That was a sufficient reduction for the time being; he could not support any proposal for further cuts.

35. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that his delegation wanted the Organization to proceed efficiently with the discharge of its responsibilities; he therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations and would oppose any move to amend them.

36. Mr. FERNANDEZ MAROTO (Spain) said that the most important question under section 3 related to the immediate rather than the distant future. At the 1448th meeting, the Soviet and Uruguayan representatives had referred to the problem of meeting the Organization's immediate cash obligations, including the payroll. At the 1449th meeting, the Controller had explained that the report on the current cash balance and accounts payable and receivable, on which he based his decision concerning the source from which funds should be obtained to meet mid-month and end-month payments, would not be available until 8 November. It was regrettable that the Organiza-

tion's finances had deteriorated to the point where cash obligations had to be met on such a hand-to-mouth basis. Was there no system in the Secretariat for assessing the cash position at an earlier stage? It was desirable to foresee requirements and anticipated income, adjusted for seasonal variations, on a more long-term basis so as to be able to forestall any likelihood of suspension of payments. An explanation on that point could help the Committee to appreciate the actual danger of insolvency within, say, the next six months. His question was intended to be constructive; it was not meant as criticism.

37. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Fifth Committee had neither the time nor the necessary information to examine the estimates in the same detail as the Advisory Committee and therefore had to trust the latter's expert judgement. The Advisory Committee reached its conclusions on the basis of the Administrative Management Service surveys, the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and the tasks the latter would be asked to perform in 1972. Any additional cuts would affect programmes, as documents A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.15 and A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19 clearly showed. The former paper showed how the regional economic commissions would suffer. The effect of paragraph 3 of the United States proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1) would be to increase the normal delay in recruitment from five to 10 months; obviously, if vacancies were not filled for 10 months, the work programme would be correspondingly delayed, and so would achievement of the aims of the Second Development Decade. His delegation would accordingly maintain its support of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. No other proposal would be acceptable.

38. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the Secretariat to provide information about the vacancies now existing on the manning table, including provisional posts, especially where the information related to the regional economic commissions. He also asked how many staff members would become available for other work in 1972 as a result of the completion of earlier programmes.

39. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) agreed with those who maintained that there was no connexion between the Organization's financial difficulties and the level of the budget estimates. Even if the estimates were reduced to zero the financial problem would remain. Naturally financial prudence must always be exercised and the best use made of the staff, and he agreed that expanding the staff did not necessarily mean increasing its efficiency. But reducing it could not ensure greater efficiency either. The delegations that opposed the proposals involving rejection of the Advisory Committee's recommendations might have listened to those proposals with greater interest if their authors had related them to United Nations programmes instead of advocating across-the-board cuts. In the absence of any detailed and objective approach to the suggested reductions, the Fifth Committee should accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations. That Committee had had more time to examine the problems in detail, and if it believed the extensive cuts now proposed were necessary, it would have said so. Consequently, Nigeria could not support the cuts proposed in either the Soviet or United

States proposals, nor could it support any amendments to those proposals.

40. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) referred to his statement at the 1432nd meeting, and said that his delegation had been one of the first to emphasize that there was no connexion between the solvency of the Organization and the level of the budget for 1972. He then referred to his statement on section 3 at the 1452nd meeting, pointing out that the various items of that section gave rise to many and complex problems. His delegation had always shared the Advisory Committee's concern about controlling expenditure and believed that better use could be made of the Secretariat's skills. It would agree that the question of consultants required careful study. But in view of the complexity of the problems involved, his delegation, while appreciating the concern of the authors of the proposals now before the Committee, could not support those proposals.

41. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay) said that during the course of the debate it had become clear that the reductions proposed in the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee would operate to the detriment of the developing countries. These countries would be made to suffer because of a financial situation for which they were in no way responsible. They would speak with one voice in refusing to accept such a situation. As to the efficiency of the Secretariat, he said he was not in a position to pass judgement on it. In any case, his delegation could not support any proposal that departed from the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

42. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) said that the lengthy debate on section 3 had been justified in that salaries and wages accounted for some 75 per cent of the budget. At the same time, however, the USSR and United States proposals could only achieve a reduction of some 1 per cent in the total budget at the price of seriously affecting programmes and undermining the Organization's future. That price was too high. The great Powers were endeavouring to find a solution to the financial problems by means which were probably the most ineffective, striving to cure symptoms but not causes. Their approach was quantitative and failed to take into consideration the more important qualitative and organizational factors. The Joint Inspection Unit report on personnel problems (A/8454) had drawn attention to shortcomings, in organization and co-ordination, which were a cause of unjustified staff increases. What was needed, therefore, was a better organized and better paid staff. A quantitative reduction without a qualitative analysis of the situation would be counter-productive. The United Nations must continue to grow if it was to fulfil its mission. The forthcoming session of UNCTAD would in all probability take decisions involving increases in staff for programmes directed to the developing countries. Indiscriminate staff reductions would be unwise. The solution to the problems of the deployment of staff could be sought in discussing agenda item 84 on personnel questions.

43. His delegation, therefore, opposed indiscriminate staff reductions and would vote against the USSR and United States proposals and the Saudi Arabian amendments. It supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation, although it maintained the position that the staff could be better organized and co-ordinated through the implemen-

tation of the recommendations in the Joint Inspection Unit report on personnel problems, which was of major importance for the Committee.

44. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) observed that, while his delegation's proposals had not led to a stampede of delegations eager to support them, they should be viewed as an effort to work within existing budgetary realities. Referring to the comments of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he pointed out that the Secretary-General would not be bypassed if those proposals were adopted because they provided that he should take the initiative by requesting new posts. His delegation had drafted the second of the decisions it proposed, which appeared in paragraph 2 of its proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1), because it had found that representatives in other committees were, in a sense, working against it by proposing new activities. He would therefore ask the Controller whether there was any way of determining the budgetary impact of the various proposals being developed in other committees. He emphasized that every effort must be made to achieve savings. He was not aware of any possibility that there could be a major improvement in the current financial crisis and felt bound to point out that there was a definite relationship between the scale of assessments and the level of expenditure. The Ecuadorian representative's comments regarding the organization and quality of the staff were perfectly valid but his Government had found that productivity was not improved by continual reorganization. It had discovered, however, that better productivity resulted from cuts in staff accompanied by the expectation that existing output levels would be maintained. Reorganization for the sake of appearances was not a solution. His delegation believed that its proposals deserved more than automatic rejection; it was open to any suggestion as to ways of achieving intelligent budgetary limitation and control.

45. Mr. MAROOFI (Afghanistan) said that, in view of the comprehensive discussion held on all aspects of the item before the Committee, his delegation would confine itself to stating that it could not support the United States and USSR proposals or the amendments thereto and would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

46. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that his delegation was awaiting instructions from its Government and therefore hoped that the Committee would not vote on the proposals before it at the current meeting. He asked the Controller to give the Committee his views as to the impact which those proposals would have on the Secretariat and to state, in particular, whether their effect would be devastating or whether certain reductions could be absorbed without undue disruption.

47. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) recalled that his delegation had already asked (1455th meeting) the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat to inform the Fifth Committee of the possible effects of the United States and USSR proposals on the programme for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The absence of any response to that request led him to think that the Advisory Committee did believe that those cuts would adversely affect that programme. If that assumption was wrong, he would welcome an assurance to that effect.

48. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that the text of the International Development Strategy had described the world as divided between affluence and a large area of abject poverty. The Second Development Decade had been launched to help accelerate the development of the developing countries and staff increases were unavoidable to the extent that they were connected with the mushrooming of activities relating to that objective. All Governments were sharing in that quickening of activities and, as a developing country, his Government was grateful for the help received from the developed countries. The Secretariat was inevitably involved in those activities and, while Governments might not always be satisfied by the way in which it was fulfilling its tasks, it might well be asked whether the "pecuniary malnutrition" of the United Nations was to be remedied by the measures now proposed by the United States and the Soviet Union. His delegation had strong reservations in that regard and would therefore support the Advisory Committee's recommendations because it considered them sound. The Fifth Committee was avoiding the heart of the matter in dealing with the reasons why the United Nations was caught up in a financial crisis. He pointed out that growth in activities inevitably connoted provision of staff to carry them out effectively. His delegation advocated the better deployment of staff at Headquarters and in the field but not the arbitrary reduction of such staff.

49. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the Spanish representative, said that it had been possible to meet contractual and other statutory commitments on 15 November because two substantial payments had been received during the preceding week. One had been for the 1971 budget from a major contributor and the other a voluntary contribution from France. The Organization was operating on a month-to-month, and even fortnight-to-fortnight basis and, as far as he could foresee, would be obliged to do so indefinitely. The cash situation was such that forward planning could not be undertaken with any assurance. He would inform the Committee of the outlook for the early part of 1972 in due course. In the meantime, all he could say in reply to the Spanish representative's specific question was that he, too, wondered what the situation would be at that time.

50. Replying to the USSR representative's question concerning vacancies, he said that, as at the end of October 1971, there were some 82 vacancies. That figure was current with regard to Headquarters but one or two months out of date in respect of overseas offices. Of those vacancies, five had been in the area of human rights, 19 in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 8 in ECE, 18 in ECAFE, 9 in ECLA, 5 in ECA, 1 at the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut and 17 scattered through the rest of the Secretariat positions covered under section 3. The term "vacancy" was sometimes rather technical; not all the 82 posts in question were necessarily unencumbered and many of them were undoubtedly occupied by temporary or short-term staff. In that connexion, he pointed out that the budget estimates were prepared on the assumption that, on any given day in the financial year, between 120 and 130 posts would be vacant. It was on that basis that the Fifth Committee made a turnover deduction of almost \$3 million in the estimates under section 3. Replying to the Soviet representative's

further question as to how many staff would be liberated in 1972 by the ending of programmes, and thus become free for employment in other areas, he said that it was impossible to give precise figures; it was probably not unreasonable to say that some 10 per cent of staff engaged in substantive areas of work were due to complete their tasks in 1972 but the position was complicated; many activities were continued from one financial year to another. In preparing the estimates of staff requirements, however, the Secretariat took account of the fact that certain activities would end during the financial year in question. The Secretary-General never requested new staff in proportion to the new tasks assigned to him and, in any case, the staff requested was subject to reduction by, for example, the Advisory Committee.

51. As to the United States representative's question concerning the budgetary implications of proposals being developed in other committees, it was difficult to be specific but it was probably fair to say that their impact in terms of staff could be significant. The Secretariat would endeavour to provide the Committee with a detailed statement of their implications in connexion with the supplementary estimates.

52. Various delegations had asked for the Secretary-General's views on the impact of the USSR and United States proposals on the work of the Secretariat, especially in terms of its responsibilities in respect of the Second Development Decade. It was not easy to reply in any very direct or positive way. The Secretary-General had indicated in the past that he would not take the position that any increase in the manning table would necessarily result in more effective programmes or that modest reductions in themselves would mean reductions in programmes. It had been in recognition of that principle that the Secretary-General had decided not to contest the Advisory Committee's recommendations, even though he had had misgivings, especially in respect of chapters II, III and IV of section 3. The proposal submitted to the Advisory Committee had been the result of a careful study of what would be necessary for the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate. It was for members of the Fifth Committee to decide what budgetary level their Governments were willing and able to support and, in the light of their decision, the Secretary-General would have to make the best possible use of the resources placed at his disposal. He could only assure the Committee that the Secretary-General would do his utmost to ensure that any impact on development programmes would be minimized, but he was not in a position to say that there would be no such impact. He was thinking, in particular, of suggestions that there should be retrenchment particularly in the area of consultancies. It would not be easy for the Secretary-General to agree that such expenditure was unprofitable; indeed, he regarded it as among the most productive areas of expenditure under section 3 in terms of value received for money spent. Furthermore, the overwhelming proportion of expenditure on consultancies was for economic and social development programmes; it amounted for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to approximately \$600,000 and for the regional economic commissions to approximately \$400,000. The more closely Secretariat officials were involved in development programmes, the stronger their feelings regarding the value of consultant services. Other areas affected by

expenditure on consultancies included the Administrative Management Service, human rights, activities in the atomic field and the Office of Public Information editorial round tables planned in 1972 in Asia and Latin America.

53. The Secretary-General had made his case and so had the Advisory Committee. It was for the Fifth Committee to decide for itself on the proposals before it; the Secretariat had submitted a clear statement of their administrative and financial implications.

54. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a paragraph which the representative of Poland had proposed for inclusion in the Committee's report to the General Assembly on its consideration of section 3, which would read:

“The Fifth Committee requests the Joint Inspection Unit to include in its programme of work for 1972 an over-all review of the question of experts and consultants hired by different services of the United Nations, and to submit its report, with any related recommendations, to the General Assembly at the twenty-seventh session” (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13).

55. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that he would make a formal proposal that the Joint Inspection Unit report to be submitted pursuant to the Polish proposal should not exceed 15 to 20 pages, on the understanding that his preference for a brief report would be conveyed to the Unit.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the inclusion in its report of the paragraph suggested by the Polish representative and that the comment of the representative of Pakistan on the length of the report should be conveyed to the Joint Inspection Unit.

*It was so decided.*

57. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee had before it only the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the proposal of the United States and the revised draft resolution of the USSR. It was his understanding that the Saudi Arabian amendments to the USSR draft resolution were no longer before the Committee since they had related to the original and not the revised text.

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

**Personnel questions (A/8454, A/8483, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1):**

**(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1)**

58. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to decide whether it wished formally to consider, under agenda item 84 relating to personnel questions, the question of the composition of the Secretariat, as it had done in previous years, or to defer consideration of it until the twenty-seventh session.

59. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that the composition of the Secretariat was one of the most significant questions considered by the Committee and the related report by the Secretary-General (A/8483) contained many important features. That report must be discussed adequately, and his delegation felt it should be taken up at the current session.

60. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) endorsed the comments of the representative of Japan.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to discuss the report on the composition of the Secretariat at the current session.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 9, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381 to 1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389, to 1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.2, A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1066 to L.1068, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24, E/5038)

Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)\* (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24)

1. Mr. LOGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), commenting on the 14-Power draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068), said that it contained a number of unacceptable provisions. While his delegation had no objection to most of the preambular paragraphs and to operative paragraph 1, it had doubts concerning the second half of the second preambular paragraph. The reference to subsequent resolutions was insufficiently precise: which resolutions did the sponsors have in mind? The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had stated that no resolutions adopted by other United Nations bodies should change the fundamental principles set forth in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952.

2. While his delegation did not object in principle to the wording of the first half of operative paragraph 2, that wording did not reflect the views of the majority of delegations in the Fifth Committee. A number of delegations had expressed the view that those two resolutions had stood the test of time and required no revision. The draft should therefore contain a reaffirmation of the importance of the fundamental principles governing United Nations

information activities, as set forth in those two resolutions. It was not enough to say that they would "continue to be applied".

3. His delegation objected to operative paragraph 3. Equipment naturally needed replacement from time to time. But in view of both the complexity of modern equipment and the Organization's financial difficulties, the question of replacement should be very carefully reviewed by experts. The Secretary-General might also ascertain the views of the Consultative Panel on Public Information on the subject and submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. Such a procedure would dispel the doubts expressed by many delegations. Hasty action should not be taken, since the question had substantial financial implications.

4. With regard to operative paragraph 4, his delegation had no objection to the endorsement of the first proposal contained in subparagraph 261 (iii) of the Secretary-General's report on the question under consideration (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), namely, that the output of publications would be maintained at the present level. His delegation could not, however, accept the second assertion in that subparagraph to the effect that an additional annual allocation might be required "to offset increased operating costs and to permit an increased output of information during the Disarmament and Development Decades". The amount of the allocation had not been stated and no account had been taken of the need for a change in priorities in the field of publications. With regard to the other subparagraphs of paragraph 261 of the report of the Secretary-General mentioned in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, he had the following observations. Subparagraph (iv), which referred to additional funds to print the French edition of *Objective: Justice*, was acceptable to his delegation, although it felt that those funds should be covered by the regular appropriations under section 11. While he did not object to the proposal contained in subparagraph (xii), which related to funds for travel, fellowships and seminars and conferences, he wished to stress the need for economy. The recommendation contained in subparagraph (x) concerning new colour photo processing equipment was unacceptable. It would entail revised estimates; furthermore, it was not urgent. The recommendation contained in subparagraph (xiii) regarding the proposed Regional Production Bureau at Addis Ababa was also unacceptable. His delegation had already stated its view on the matter and noted that doubts had also been expressed by many other members (1450th meeting). In fact, many delegations had stressed the need to improve the work of information centres, the importance of which was emphasized in the preamble of the 14-Power draft resolution.

\* Resumed from the 1456th meeting.



5. In paragraph 199 of his report, the Secretary-General stated that 11 out of 51 information centres were being maintained in collaboration with UNDP. What did that mean? Professional and technical staff were transferred from the information centres to UNDP; whereas the impression was given that an information centre existed, it had, for all practical purposes, been dismantled. Furthermore, the Administrative Management Service had apparently recommended the transfer of six more information centres to UNDP from 1 January 1972. That was a very dangerous tendency which could severely hamper the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in such fields as racial discrimination and decolonization, since neither UNDP nor UNIDO were concerned with those questions. His delegation considered it absolutely essential to strengthen the information centres; they must not be swallowed up by UNDP or UNIDO. His delegation wished to point out, however, that each regional economic commission had its own information centre, which discharged two functions: on the one hand, it served Member States in the region covered by the commission, and on the other, it carried out information activities for the whole region. In other words, the functions to be assigned to the Bureau at Addis Ababa were already being performed. Was it rational to set up yet another apparatus? Would it not be better to boost the activities of existing information centres and services?

6. Those observations also applied to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. An improvement in information activities in the economic and social fields was unobjectionable, but should not be effected at the expense of information on the Organization's political activities. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution, the economic and social fields were given undue prominence; they already received much attention from the Office of Public Information, UNDP, UNIDO and the regional economic commissions. Furthermore, the vague reference in operative paragraph 6 to "shortcomings" served no useful purpose. What were those shortcomings?

7. The proposal in subparagraph 261 (xiv) to resume the practice of holding meetings of information centre directors at Headquarters every five years was not a good idea in view of the need for financial stringency.

8. The USSR delegation endorsed the request contained in operative paragraph 8 for the integration of the Centre for Economic and Social Information within the Office of Public Information. It firmly opposed the Centre's autonomous status: the sole information organ of the United Nations within the Secretariat was the Office of Public Information.

9. His delegation also wished to point out that the 14-Power draft resolution did not reflect the important observations made by several delegations, including his own, regarding the composition and qualifications of the Office of Public Information staff.

10. His delegation wished to request the Secretariat, in dealing with the question of information centres to raise the level of the post of Assistant Director of the Information Centre in Moscow to that of the same post in London and Paris.

11. Commenting on the draft resolution as a whole, he said that, in all its resolutions concerning information activities, the General Assembly either defined or reaffirmed the policy and principles governing those activities. The text before the Committee confused policy and technical matters, whereas they should be clearly separated. His delegation would vote against it.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (*concluded*)  
(A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/L.1065/REV.1, A/C.5/L.1067, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.13 TO 15, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/REV.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.19, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.20, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.21/REV.1)

12. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), commenting on the reaction to the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1), said it was important to exercise control over the administrative expenditure of the United Nations. In submitting the draft resolution, his delegation had not intended to freeze the economic, social or other activities of the Organization. It was convinced, however, that all United Nations programmes could be implemented without additional posts if the existing staff increased its productivity—which was clearly feasible—and concentrated its efforts on the most important and urgent questions. The Secretary-General should harness all available resources by filling the many vacancies in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional economic commissions. The Controller had said at the previous meeting that some 10 per cent of existing staff could be reassigned to new programmes as soon as current programmes were completed. Furthermore, the USSR draft did not call for the elimination of temporary assistance, although such assistance would be somewhat reduced from the 1971 level. Thus, the Secretary-General could, if necessary, draw upon a reserve of temporary Professional staff for the implementation of economic and social programmes.

13. His delegation had no doubt concerning the importance of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade; on the other hand, it could not understand how 10 more General Service staff and 68 more local staff to serve the economic and social sections of the Secretariat could assist in attaining those objectives—a task which demanded the concerted efforts of countries as a whole.

14. As was well known, the Soviet Union was making great efforts to strengthen the economic independence of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Those efforts were reflected in its political and diplomatic activities and in its broad programme of economic, scientific and technical co-operation with many developing countries. Any change in its approach to the question of appropriations for new activities related to the means of attaining economic and social objectives rather than to the objectives themselves.

15. Despite the devastation of war, the Soviet Union had, in the space of 50 years, risen from an undeveloped country to the rank of a highly industrialized Power. It knew from experience that solution of a nation's complex economic

and social problems did not hinge on whether the Secretariat staff was increased by 100 or reduced by that number. While he did not wish to minimize the importance of the work of every member of the Secretariat, his delegation believed that additional staff would not contribute to the actual process of development.

16. His delegation shared the view expressed by many delegations that there was a direct link between the growth in the budget and the financial deficit. A deficit in some sections of the budget should not be reflected in the level of staff salaries, since all States regularly contributed to that part of the budget. In view of the present financial difficulties, however, unnecessary expenditure must be avoided. As the Controller had stated, new requests would be made during the current session for increases in staff. Those requests might well have substantial financial implications.

17. The USSR delegation was firmly convinced that its approach to the question before the Committee was fully justified. Delegations which opposed the USSR draft resolution would bear some responsibility for continuing difficulties in the administrative and budgetary fields. The draft clearly did not enjoy the support that it deserved; without presenting reasoned arguments, many representatives of developing countries had said that they would oppose it. He regretted the Algerian representative's appeal to the USSR delegation to refrain from pressing for a vote on it. However, his delegation would adopt a realistic attitude and comply with that appeal.

18. Commenting on the United States draft (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.17/Rev.1), he said that the United States delegation, too, had been motivated by the desire to reduce the appropriations under section 3. However, the USSR delegation had serious reservations concerning paragraph (1), under which appropriations would be authorized only for new posts specifically approved by the Administrative Management Service. First, the United States proposal did not accord with his delegation's firm conviction that the manning table should not be increased. Second, the Administrative Management Service was an internal advisory body whose task was to make recommendations to the Secretary-General; it had no power to legislate or to dictate to Member States how the Secretariat should be organized. His delegation was not convinced that the recommendations of the Service were necessarily well-founded. If the United States draft was put to the vote, the USSR delegation would vote against paragraph (1).

19. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that the United States proposal was based on the firm belief that there was a direct relationship between the level of the estimates for 1972 and the possibility of improving the Organization's deficit situation. In the circumstances, an austerity approach was needed, and he believed that the Secretary-General would in any case have to take sterner measures in 1972, thus vindicating the United States proposal. That proposal had been intended as a compromise between the Soviet draft resolution and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and was directed mainly to reducing reliance on consultants, temporary assistance and overtime when many new posts were being added. He understood

that the Secretary-General would propose the addition of 65 additional posts before the end of the session, a fact not known to the Advisory Committee when it had prepared its report. He hoped he had already made it clear that the United States proposal for appropriations for 1972 under section 3 below the level recommended by the Advisory Committee had not been intended as a reflection on that Committee. Its report would have been prepared in June/July 1971, when the financial situation had not been made clear; moreover, it was an expert body, which would not feel able to adopt an austerity approach on behalf of the General Assembly. Government representatives were in a different position.

20. Despite the unassailable logic of the United States proposal, he realized that there was not enough support for it in the Committee, and would accordingly withdraw it.

21. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) said he believed he could speak for all the developing countries in expressing his thanks to the United States and the Soviet Union for the understanding they had shown in withdrawing their proposals. The developing countries were concerned lest the proposed cuts affect the work programme and thus hamper achievement of the objectives of the Second Development Decade. There was no connexion between the level of the budget and the financial crisis. He agreed with those who thought that the productivity of the Secretariat could be increased, but doubted whether such increased productivity could ever fill the gap left by the \$2.5 million or \$3 million reduction proposed by the Soviet Union and the United States for section 3. Those two countries had shown a spirit of co-operation, but so had the developing countries, in accepting the reduction of \$1,757,800 recommended by the Advisory Committee. They had demonstrated their understanding of the position of the developed countries and the major contributors, which had been taken into account by the Advisory Committee in reducing the estimates. He hoped that such a spirit of give-and-take would prevail in the difficult tasks that still lay ahead for the Fifth Committee.

22. Mr. KHALIL (Egypt), Mr. CLELAND (Ghana), Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) and Mr. MAKUFU (Zaire) endorsed the comments of the representative of Iran, and expressed their thanks to the United States and the Soviet Union for their spirit of understanding and co-operation.

23. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that his delegation considered that there was nothing more than a psychological link between the level of the budget and the deficit, and thus sympathized with those who regarded the attempt to connect them as an excuse for placing a ceiling on expenditure. Nevertheless, if the United Nations was really to face the fact that it was a bankrupt organization, then, pending new arrangements, it must make a serious effort to cut costs. That was incontrovertible logic. The New Zealand delegation considered that there must always be a responsible approach to financial and budgetary questions. Consequently it would have supported the United States proposal, had it been put to a vote. Since it had been withdrawn, he would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations. However, he hoped that the Secretary-General would take note of the views expressed in the debate concerning the need to rely less on temporary assistance.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 136; A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 26) for an appropriation of \$92,809,200 under section 3 was approved in first reading by 66 votes to 10, with 1 abstention.*

24. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that he would have supported the United States proposal had it been voted on, but since it had been withdrawn he had voted for the Advisory Committee's recommendations. He had been somewhat surprised at the preceding meeting to hear the comments of some delegations on the subject of support for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, in view of the attitude adopted with respect to the \$2 million originally earmarked for the Headquarters expansion programme. He hoped that the Secretary-General would introduce the necessary austerity measures at the twenty-sixth session, as he had envisaged at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376), if there was no significant change in the deficit situation.

25. Mr. SARAMO (Finland) said that both the Soviet and United States proposals reflected the restraint necessary in the existing financial situation, and he could have voted for either. Since both had been withdrawn, he had followed the traditional procedure of voting for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

26. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation had been prepared to give careful consideration to the Soviet proposal, especially after changes had been made in passages that might affect the developing countries. It would also have considered an amended version of the United States proposal. Since both proposals had been withdrawn, he had voted for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

27. Mr. GUPTA (India) said, in connexion with the Australian representative's comments, that although his own delegation had many reservations about the cuts recommended by the Advisory Committee, in view of the fact that the Soviet and United States delegations had withdrawn their proposals in a spirit of co-operation, he had voted for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, for the reasons given by the Iranian representative.

28. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) expressed his appreciation to the Soviet Union and the United States for withdrawing their proposals. The choice between an austerity budget and the needs of the developing countries had confronted him with a dilemma, and he had resolved it by voting for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

29. Mr. AL-QANDI (Kuwait) thanked the Soviet and United States delegations for their co-operation in withdrawing their proposals, and said he had voted for the Advisory Committee's recommendations. He expressed alarm at the increasing inefficiency of the Secretariat staff, and said he would favour any proposal to improve the Secretariat's productivity.

30. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay) thanked the Soviet and United States delegations for their co-operative attitude and understanding of the position of the developing countries.

The United Nations was indeed facing a very serious financial crisis; on the other hand, it was primarily the developing countries which were adversely affected by the present international monetary instability, and they were grateful to all who understood their concern.

#### SECTION 4. COMMON STAFF COSTS (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 and ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366)

31. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3) had requested an initial appropriation under section 4 of \$21,356,000. In his revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/C.5/1366) he had proposed an additional amount of \$30,000, making a total request of \$21,386,000. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraphs 137-147 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, had recommended a reduction of \$209,000 in the initial estimates resulting in an appropriation of \$21,147,000. In its second report (A/8408/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$6,000 in the additional amount of \$30,000 requested by the Secretary-General. The grand total recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 4 was thus \$21,171,000.

32. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the figures for section 4 were consequential upon those for section 3, and the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee were consequential on the reductions proposed for section 3.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 147; A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 26) for an appropriation of \$21,171,000 under section 4 was approved in first reading by 69 votes to 7, with 1 abstention.*

#### INCOME SECTION 1. INCOME FROM STAFF ASSESSMENT (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/CORR.1, A/C.5/1366/ADD.1 AND CORR.1)

33. The CHAIRMAN said that in his budget estimates (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3) and in revised estimates resulting from the decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/C.5/1366/Add.1 and Corr.1) the Secretary-General had estimated that income from staff assessment in 1972 would amount to a total of \$24,979,700. The Advisory Committee in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates and in its second report (A/8408/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), had recommended that that amount be reduced by \$414,700 to \$24,565,000.

*The estimate of \$24,565,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 317, A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 26) under income section 1 was approved unanimously in first reading.*

**SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**  
*(concluded)* (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408  
 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.1 AND ADD.1/  
 CORR.1, A/C.5/1366, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22)

34. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation had examined in detail the new proposal by the Secretariat (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22) regarding the records of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament. Brazil would vote for the proposal, and congratulated the Advisory Committee for calling attention to the high cost of the service in question. Brazil had had some misgivings about changing the procedure, but it appeared that the proposed new system would not adversely affect the functioning of the Committee.

35. He wished to place on record his delegation's displeasure concerning the way the consultations that had led to the proposal had been conducted. Apparently only certain members of the Committee had been consulted, which appeared to create a situation of undue privilege for those members. If consultations were required in future, they should not be held on a basis that would prevent some members of an organ from participating in decisions affecting the procedures of that organ.

36. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said that he could accept the new proposal, and was glad to see that it would result in savings. He endorsed the Brazilian representative's comments concerning the unsatisfactory manner in which consultations had been conducted. It had been announced that the members of the Committee on Disarmament had been consulted and had agreed to the new proposal when, in fact, a number of members had not been consulted. In future, any such consultations should include all the parties concerned.

37. Mr. GUPTA (India), Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria), Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) and Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) endorsed the comments by the representatives of Brazil and Mexico.

38. Mr. TURNER (Controller) pointed out that no agreement had been made during the consultations in question. Furthermore, the Secretariat had followed the appropriate and customary procedure by consulting the delegations which were Co-Chairmen of the Conference. That was the proper procedure and the Secretariat would continue to follow it in future.

39. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said, in reply to a question put by the representative of Pakistan, that, given the arrangements proposed for the servicing of the Conference, there would no longer be any need for the review of those arrangements suggested in paragraph 85 of the Advisory Committee's first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972.

40. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would support the appropriations under section 2 as a whole but, as it had already stated in the Economic and Social Council, it opposed the convening of the Third World Population Conference. Consequently, it regarded the expenditure

under chapter IX as unjustified and, if that chapter was put to a separate vote, would vote against it.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 97; A/8408/Add.1 and Corr.1, para. 26; 1457th meeting, para. 1) for an appropriation in the amount of \$2,026,100 for section 2 was approved in first reading by 81 votes to none.*

*Report of the Special Committee for Review of the United Nations Salary System (A/8408/Add.6, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1)*

41. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System (A/8428 and Corr.1). The Secretary-General had presented revised estimates (A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1) under section 2 of the 1972 budget estimates in the total amount of \$524,485 to provide for the requirements of the Special Committee. He drew attention to the Advisory Committee's related report (A/8408/Add.6).

42. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it was for the Fifth Committee to decide, first, whether the mandate of the Special Committee should be extended and, second, what funds should be authorized to enable that Committee to carry out an extended mandate. The Advisory Committee's report was concerned with the second question. Without minimizing the work of the Special Committee, the Advisory Committee had felt that the original estimate of roughly \$525,000 was too high and had decided to adopt a critical approach to it. The two major components were the provision for detailed minutes and the field visit. The cost of minutes was virtually the same as that of full summary records, the servicing required to provide minutes of the kind the Special Committee had in mind being practically the same as that required for summary records. The Advisory Committee questioned the necessity for either the detailed minutes or the field visit and wondered whether alternative arrangements might not be made at little or no extra cost. It also wondered if a further visit by the Special Committee to Geneva was essential. Savings would result if all its meetings were held in New York and if it met in continuous session rather than adjourning for five or six weeks while the Secretariat drafted its report. The Advisory Committee questioned that arrangement too; other Committees drafted their reports concurrently with the discharge of their tasks. The Advisory Committee was also of the opinion that the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies might be more forthcoming in providing secretariat and other assistance to the Special Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2743 (XXV). For the reasons stated in detail in its report, the Advisory Committee felt that the expenditure in question could be reduced to approximately \$225,000. At the same time, it recognized that the variables in the equation included the venue and duration of the Special Committee's meetings and the nature of its records. It also recognized that the Special Committee might wish to review its procedures in the light of the financial implications, of which it had not been informed when it had adjourned. The Advisory Committee had therefore decided to allow the Special Committee a degree of latitude by

recommending a contingency provision of 20 per cent, thereby reducing the appropriation to a maximum of \$270,000.

43. Mr. GUPTA (India) requested the Chairman to defer the vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendations to allow his delegation time for consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee.

44. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation concurred generally in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which was to be congratulated for adopting a very critical attitude towards the financial implications of the Special Committee's meetings and programme of work.

45. He had been surprised to note, from paragraph 4 (e) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1), that the United Nations was to pay rent to WHO for offices for the Special Committee. It was clear from paragraph 6 of its related report (A/8408/Add.6) that the Advisory Committee, too, wondered whether that arrangement was appropriate in respect of a committee enquiring into a matter of common concern to the United Nations system.

46. His delegation would vote in favour of all the Advisory Committee's recommendations and hoped that, by the end of 1972, the Special Committee would have submitted a full report on the completion of its mandate.

47. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation's position was similar to that stated by the Brazilian representative. It fully supported the Advisory Committee's critical attitude towards the estimates of expenditure. He also wondered whether it was customary for WHO to charge rent in such circumstances. At the same time, he wished to stress the importance of the work done by the Special Committee, which was entitled to maximum support from the secretariats of the United Nations system. Its task was not easy; it should be able to draw upon the expertise available in the secretariats of the common system.

48. Dr. COIGNEY (World Health Organization), replying to the representatives of Brazil and the United Republic of Tanzania, said that WHO had not asked for any rental for premises to be used by the Special Committee. It was a routine administrative practice in Geneva to seek reimbursement of the cost of services such as electricity and telephone or cable communications. Such charges did not constitute a rental, properly speaking.

49. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) associated his delegation with the remarks of the representatives of Brazil and the United Republic of Tanzania. He concurred in the Advisory Committee's findings but doubted that the 20 per cent contingency allowance was really necessary. He doubted whether detailed minutes, which would be extremely expensive, were really necessary or likely to be of great moment to future generations. Nor was he convinced that the cost of the field visits would be justified by the amount of information which the Special Committee would gain from them.

50. He had not found the remarks of the representative of WHO entirely convincing. The Secretary-General's report

stated plainly that rent was to be paid to WHO for a conference room and five offices. The Special Committee, as a body serving the common system, should not be charged rental.

51. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the term "rent" in the Secretary-General's report was perhaps unfortunate. As the representative of WHO had indicated, the sums involved represented a charge for services and facilities. The arrangements between WHO and the United Nations with regard to the use of premises were reciprocal. WHO paid for office space which it rented in the Palais des Nations for the World Health Assembly and if such charges were abolished the United Nations would be a heavy loser.

52. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) observed that the Advisory Committee's report could only be as accurate as the information provided to it by the Secretariat. Whether the amounts involved were rental or a charge for services, the Advisory Committee's remarks still applied. The Special Committee was working on behalf of the common system as a whole and it was with that in mind that the Advisory Committee had made its comments.

53. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) endorsed the remarks of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The circumstance that the Special Committee was working in the WHO building was not connected with the reciprocal arrangements which the Controller had described because the entire United Nations system stood to benefit from the work of the Special Committee.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the Indian request that the vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendations should be deferred.

*It was so decided.*

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)\*

##### *Statement by the Chairman of the Group of 77*

55. The CHAIRMAN read out a communication which he had received from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations, Chairman of the Group of 77, who had requested that it should be circulated as a document of the Fifth Committee. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to circulation of the communication as a Conference Room Paper.<sup>1</sup>

*It was so decided.*

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

56. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) requested that, as the Moslem Feast of Bairam would fall on 19 November, the Committee should hold no meeting that day.

\* Resumed from the 1436th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently issued in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25.

57. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee would not meet on Thanksgiving Day, which fell during the following week. If the Committee was not to meet on 19 November, he would be obliged to propose that it should meet on Saturday, 27 November, because it could not afford to lose two working days. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the request

of the representative of Pakistan and, consequently, to the proposal by the Chair.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 9, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1065/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1067, A/C.5/L.1068, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 14, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25, E/5038)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (*continued*)\* (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.7, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1389 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1390 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/REV.1)

HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION (*continued*)\*  
(A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/REV.1)

1. Mr. FRAZÃO (Brazil) said that since the question of construction at United Nations Headquarters had been fully discussed in the Committee, he would confine himself to introducing draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063.

2. Four points had emerged from the discussions. First, many delegations had expressed regret that the extension of the United Nations Headquarters in New York approved by General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) had not proceeded as scheduled during 1971 and that it was unlikely that the project would be carried out as desired by the General Assembly. Second, several delegations had expressed concern at the failure to implement other substantive provisions of the resolution in question. Third, it had been acknowledged that the lack of space at Headquarters and at other United Nations offices had increased the pressure of facilities and made it necessary to rent

expensive premises outside Headquarters. Fourth, the Secretary-General's report on the question (A/C.5/1381) had been found wanting, for it had failed to provide the Committee with sufficient information and had not made proposals that would enable the Committee to take judicious decisions on alternative courses of action.

3. In the circumstances, many delegations had felt that a decision at the present stage on the complex matter of Headquarters accommodation, involving such wide-ranging issues as level of staff, programming of conferences and meetings and future location of United Nations offices, would be premature and likely to run counter to the best interests of the Organization. Some delegations had held consultations on the matter and, in order to express their concern, had prepared draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063. The proposal was straightforward, concise and non-controversial, the aim of the sponsors being merely to prevent the Committee from embarking on a course of action it might later regret and, consequently, to ensure that it was aware of all available practical courses of action. The proposal was, therefore, more procedural than substantive in nature.

4. Having outlined the contents of the four preambular paragraphs, he said that the proposal, in operative paragraph 1, to defer consideration of the question until the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, had not been advanced as an end in itself. Rather, the sponsors felt that postponement would be the best means of ensuring that the Committee did not take a decision until it was really in a position to do so. In paragraph 2, therefore, the sponsors requested the Secretary-General to supply the fullest possible information on the situation resulting from the shortage of space at Headquarters. The information should cover the prospects of executing the project authorized in General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) and the Secretary-General should make concrete alternative proposals and recommendations, which the Committee would consider in 1972 in the light of the situation prevailing at that time. In paragraph 3, the draft resolution referred to those provisions of the cited resolution which were germane to the problem of Headquarters expansion; the provisions of paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the resolution should already have been implemented and must be put into effect in 1972 if an over-all picture of the situation and its long-range aspects was to be obtained.

5. The sponsors were convinced that their proposal, which aimed at ascertaining facts and securing information with a view to determining the best among the many possible courses open to the United Nations, reflected the opinion of a large majority of delegations concerning the most appropriate action to be taken on the matter at the present stage. They hoped that it would be adopted without controversy and by a large majority.

\* Resumed from the 1444th meeting.

6. Mr. PORTELA PICO (Argentina) emphasized that in the absence of information requested in the draft resolution, the Fifth Committee should not adopt a decision in the matter. He hoped, therefore, that members would support the draft resolution.

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion of the draft resolution should be deferred until the Committee resumed its debate on section 7 as a whole.

*It was so decided.*

[The Committee turned to consideration of agenda item 84 (see paras. 24–51 below). Later, the Committee resumed consideration of agenda item 76.]

*Report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System (concluded) (A/8408/Add.6, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1)*

8. Mr. PORTELA PICO (Argentina) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the task of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System whose mandate, under General Assembly resolution 2743 (XXV), was broad and complex. At the twenty-fifth session, his delegation had pointed out the urgent need for a broad review of the United Nations common system of salaries so that the needs of the staff might be met in a fair and realistic manner. As recalled in the cited resolution, there had been no comprehensive review of the United Nations common system of salaries, allowances, grants, superannuation and other benefits since 1956; however, the bases on which the salary scales had been established had changed significantly. The Special Committee was to be congratulated on its report (A/8428 and Corr.1), which was extremely useful. It was not easy to formulate a viable and equitable common salary system for the 1970s but he was convinced that the Special Committee would be successful in its task.

9. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 3 of its related report (A/8408/Add.6) at the late issuance of the Special Committee's next report and supported its request that the General Assembly should ask the Special Committee to review its work programme. One way of reducing costs might be to eliminate the field trips envisaged by the Special Committee. He also supported the suggestion in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, which would enable the Special Committee to have access to the factual data it needed without requiring detailed minutes and the additional costs they would entail. The Special Committee could meet for 21 weeks, from 11 January to 2 June 1972, thus reducing costs and accelerating the preparation of its report. Finally, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation for the Special Committee should be reduced to a maximum of \$270,000.

10. Dr. COIGNEY (World Health Organization), providing additional details on the question of the estimated reimbursement to WHO for use of its facilities and services by the Special Committee in 1972, stated that it was a routine bookkeeping matter among the organizations in the United

Nations system. When the Director-General extended an invitation to a United Nations body to use WHO's space and facilities, no charge was made. For the purposes of the Special Committee, the United Nations Secretariat had asked WHO for conference and office facilities at a time already reserved for UNDP. Subsequently, the Secretariat had renewed its request, specifying a change of dates for the Special Committee's proposed Geneva session, and had itself computed the estimated charge at \$3,200. However, should the Special Committee, the Advisory Committee or the Fifth Committee request space and facilities for the Special Committee without reimbursement, the Director-General was prepared to issue an invitation.

11. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he had no objection to the suggestion that the field trips be eliminated from the programme of the Special Committee or to the latter's meeting in continuous session, provided he was assured that the necessary documentation would be available throughout on a continuing basis and provided the Secretariat was given ample time to draft the report. With regard to the records of the Special Committee, he noted that although the minutes in 1971 had been very unsatisfactory, records were necessary, since some countries had changed or were about to change their representatives on the Committee and since all representatives were not able to attend all meetings. The Special Committee could forgo its meeting in Geneva, although such a meeting would be desirable because many of the agencies were located there. The Special Committee had been very dissatisfied with the services rendered by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions.

12. His delegation would vote against the Advisory Committee's recommendation and warned that if the Special Committee discharged its task inefficiently the responsibility would lie with the Fifth Committee. He asked what the financial implications of the 1956 Salary Review Committee had been.

13. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that, although her delegation attached great importance to the work of the Special Committee and wished it to have adequate facilities, it had been disturbed by the extremely high costs given in the Secretary-General's report. Her delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which would enable the Special Committee to complete its work at lower cost.

14. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that his delegation would also support the Advisory Committee's recommendation. If the appropriation requested for the Special Committee for 1972 was approved, the total cost of the Committee for two years would come to about \$700,000, which was far too much. With regard to the request for a larger secretariat for the Special Committee mentioned in paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report, he wondered whether the Committee had prepared its work sufficiently in advance to avoid delays. Such preparation was essential since experts could not leave their other tasks for long periods.

15. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) replying to the representative of India, said that the financial implications of the 1956 Salary Review Committee had been estimated



at \$11,500 for travel expenses for a session at Headquarters and at \$15,100 for meetings at Geneva.

16. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendation that the mandate of the Special Committee be extended to 1972 so that it might submit its report to the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. If there were no objections he would assume that the Committee supported that recommendation.

*It was so decided.*

17. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408/Add.6, para. 14) that \$270,000 be provided for the Special Committee for 1972 under a new chapter of section 2.

*At the request of the representative of India, a vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Bahrain, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, People's Republic of the Congo, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria.

*Against:* Cuba, India, Peru.

*Abstaining:* Colombia.

*The recommendation was adopted by 74 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.*

18. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendation that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit the reports of the Special Committee and the Advisory Committee to the executive heads of agencies in the common system of salaries and to seek their co-operation, as recommended by the Advisory Committee. If there was no objection, he would assume the Committee approved that recommendation.

*It was so decided.*

19. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the proposal to request the Special Committee to reorganize its work, taking into account the Advisory Committee's recommendations as set forth in paragraphs 3 and 7–14 of its report (A/8408/Add.6).

20. Mr. GUPTA (India) requested that the vote be taken by show of hands.

*The proposal was adopted by 75 votes in favour and 2 against.*

21. Mr. FAURA (Peru), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee, said that the Special Committee's task was difficult, delicate and time-consuming. Since it had started work, the Committee had encountered problems on all sides. Previous committees appointed for the same or similar purposes had functioned for long periods and had had large budgets. The Special Committee had been asked to make recommendations concerning restructuring the salary system which had existed for the last 25 years. In view of the tremendous responsibility placed upon it by that task, the Committee had been given very little time in which to accomplish its work. Nevertheless, he hoped that it would be able to complete it within the allotted time. When the Committee had met with the Secretary-General to submit its provisional report, the members had complained of the difficulties they had experienced owing to lack of resources and secretariat services and had been assured that those facilities would be provided. In the meantime, however, the Advisory Committee had recommended a 50 per cent reduction in funds and the Fifth Committee had approved the recommendation. If the Committee produced an incomplete or unsatisfactory report, he wished to go on record as warning that the responsibility would rest squarely on the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee for having deprived the Special Committee of the necessary facilities, resources and secretariat services that had been promised it by the Secretary-General himself. Finally, he wished to know what had been the total cost of the 1956 Salary Review Committee.

22. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia), explaining his vote, said that he had abstained from the vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning the reduction in the Special Committee's appropriation for the reasons just stated by the representative of Peru.

23. Mr. GUPTA (India), speaking as representative of India and on behalf of the Chairman of the Special Committee, said that he associated himself with the Peruvian representative's remarks. He had been shocked by the reply given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to his query concerning the financial implications of the 1956 Salary Review Committee. Finally, he expressed the hope that, if the Special Committee chose not to reorganize its work, supplementary appropriations would be made available in 1972.

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

**Personnel questions (continued):** (A/8454, A/8483, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1)

(a) **Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (continued)\*** (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1)

*[See note at end of paragraph 7 above.]*

24. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation had noted with great interest paragraphs 13 to 16 of the Secretary-

\* Resumed from the 1457th meeting.

General's report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/8483). His Government was grateful to the Secretary-General for having sent a special recruitment mission to Japan. The mission had proved useful not only because it had interviewed possible Japanese candidates but because it had awakened the interest of Japanese youth in the United Nations. His Government hoped that those Japanese candidates the mission had deemed suitably qualified would be recruited as soon as possible. It hoped, too, that special recruitment missions would be sent to under-represented countries as often as possible.

25. While it appreciated the Secretary-General's efforts to remedy the situation of under-represented countries, his delegation was disturbed by the information given in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report. In previous years, the General Assembly had called on the Secretary-General to limit recruitment of candidates from over-represented countries to the minimum, in other words, to really exceptional cases. Eighty-one appointments (34 per cent) approved for nationals of over-represented countries could not, however, be regarded as exceptional. According to the Secretary-General, such appointments had been made only after it had become apparent that qualified candidates from other countries were not available. Similar explanations had been given in previous years, yet there had been no appreciable improvement in the situation. Indeed, it would be interesting to have a more detailed explanation than that given in paragraph 14 of the reasons which had compelled the Secretary-General to recruit candidates from over-represented countries. His delegation urged the Secretary-General to do all in his power to ensure a considerable increase in the appointment of nationals from under-represented countries in 1972.

26. Although some progress had been made in improving geographical distribution at the senior (Director and Principal Officer) level, there were still far too few candidates from under-represented countries being appointed to such posts. There again, his delegation would be interested to learn why the Secretary-General had been unable to increase the number of appointments from under-represented countries.

27. Turning to chapter V of the report, he said that his delegation had noted the efforts being made to achieve a better representation of nationalities in the Secretariat. Given the disparity in the rate of separations from service, the task was a difficult one but his delegation hoped that the Secretariat would renew its efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the staff.

28. The statistical tables appearing in the annex to the Secretary-General's report were very useful and informative. According to table 10—Staff in posts subject to geographical distribution—there had been 50 Japanese on the Secretariat on 31 August 1971. That figure was far below the desirable range of 76 to 104 for Japan. It appeared from tables 12 and 13, however, that between 1 September 1970 and 31 August 1971, 11 Japanese had been appointed to posts subject to geographical distribution and seven Japanese had separated from the Organization. It was gratifying to note, therefore, that the efforts of the Secretary-General had been of some, although not much, use in improving the very unsatisfactory situation prevailing

with respect to the employment of Japanese staff members. It was interesting to learn from table 18 that whereas not a few countries exceeded the upper limit of their desirable weighted range, 33 countries, including Japan, had not achieved the lower limit of their desirable weighted range. His delegation wished to emphasize the urgent need to rectify that situation. The very useful information given in tables 19 and 20 had been noted by his delegation.

29. In conclusion, he reiterated his delegation's desire that the Secretary-General should take account of delegations' comments and endeavour to act on them.

30. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) recalled that during the general discussion he had said that the 8 per cent salary increase granted in 1971 to staff in the Professional and higher grades should have served to raise morale and encourage the staff to give of their best. Having regard to the need, often expressed in the Committee, for increased productivity, that statement was pertinent. It was in that connexion that his delegation welcomed the institution of a pilot scheme for paid leave to enable deserving staff to improve their managerial skills, and the UNITAR proposal for the establishment of a staff college. Such facilities for advanced training should enable all staff to attain the standard of excellence required by the Charter.

31. In his same statement he had also urged the Secretary-General to continue to follow the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV) and endeavour to achieve a more equitable geographical distribution of staff at all levels and in all fields, bearing in mind the standards of efficiency, competence and integrity laid down in the Charter. Reference to table 7 annexed to the Secretary-General's report showed, however, that whereas representatives of the advanced countries occupied 170 senior posts in the Secretariat, representatives of the developing countries occupied only 95. Obviously, the scale of contributions played an important role in the determination of Secretariat appointments, particularly at the senior level, but it was nevertheless difficult to understand why the developed countries occupied so many senior posts. It seemed clear that other factors, such as geographical balance and population, had not been given adequate attention in appointments to senior posts. It was gratifying to note that efforts to improve geographical distribution at the senior level had resulted in the appointment of three nationals of under-represented African countries but, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2539 (XXIV), the Secretary-General should intensify his efforts to correct the prevailing distressing imbalance.

32. The General Assembly had recommended in its resolution 2736 A (XXV), with respect to recruitment for the regional economic commissions, that where qualified personnel from under-represented countries could not be found, preference should be given to candidates of other nationalities of the same geographical region. The idea had been that 75 per cent of the staff should come from the region in which the commission was situated and 25 per cent from other regions. If that mixture of staff was considered desirable, it would be interesting to know why only 11 of the 22 appointments to posts in ECA had been offered to nationals of the countries in the region. Had it been impossible to find properly qualified personnel in the region?

33. The rationale behind paragraph 1 (b) (i) of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) was clear but his delegation would urge the Secretary-General, when implementing that provision, to protect the interests of those staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the United Nations. It would be interesting to know what steps, if any, had been taken to safeguard the interests of such staff members. If no steps had been taken, his delegation would formally introduce a proposal on the subject for inclusion in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly.<sup>1</sup>

34. In conclusion, he said that his delegation continued to believe that youth could play an important part in accomplishing the aims of the United Nations. It was youth that would supply the new ideas and dynamism which would prevent the Organization from becoming listless. It was for that reason that Ghana supported the special efforts being made to recruit young men and women through the development of more objective selection methods, including competitive examinations. His delegation would co-operate with the Secretary-General by nominating young men and women, as well as experienced staff for United Nations appointments.

35. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), referring to table 10 of the Secretary-General's report, said that there were only 34 Italians on the Secretariat although 51 to 69 was the desirable range for Italy. If the principles laid down in General Assembly resolution 1852 (XVII) were followed with greater attention and if the guidelines established by the Assembly in resolution 2736 (XXV) were borne in mind, more countries, representing a wider range of cultural backgrounds and legal systems, would be able to play a greater part in achieving the aims of the Organization. It would be useful if, on some future occasion, a special recruitment mission of the type mentioned in paragraph 13 of the report could visit Italy, which was very much under-represented on the Secretariat. If that proved impossible, perhaps the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Italy could be instructed to visit universities with a view to informing students about the Organization's objectives and about prospects for employment. The vacancy notices sent out by the Secretariat were circulated to all interested milieux, but direct action by a representative of the Secretariat would have a greater impact in making the work of the United Nations known to young people.

36. Like other under-represented countries, Italy was anxious that the guidelines laid down in resolution 2736 (XXV) should be followed. It was also anxious that in recruiting staff at all levels, but particularly at senior levels, the Secretary-General should be guided by the principle of the relative importance of posts at different levels and of the need for a more balanced regional composition of the staff at levels of D-1 and above. If those principles were observed, the Secretariat would assume a character more in keeping with that envisaged in the Charter.

37. Mr. FEDORCHENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that many General Assembly resolutions on the composition of the Secretariat reflected the concern of

the majority of Member States that staff was not yet being recruited on a truly international basis, as required under the Charter, with the result that the Secretariat suffered from a one-sided political outlook and a predominance of the national practices and administrative methods of certain countries.

38. The Secretary-General's report indicated that definite steps had been taken to recruit more staff from under-represented countries, particularly by means of two special recruitment missions. However, the practical implementation of the recruitment guidelines set forth in General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV) still remained to be achieved. It was clear from table 3 of the report that Eastern Europe and Asia and the Far East continued to be under-represented. In contrast to the desirable ranges of 16.5 per cent for Eastern Europe and 17 per cent for Asia and the Far East, the actual staff position in 1971 was 11.7 per cent and 15.1 per cent respectively. Of the total of 122 nationalities represented in the Secretariat, 10 were not represented at all, while of 8 under-represented countries, there was considerable under-representation in the case of the USSR—with 127 staff members, as compared with 187, the minimum figure of the desirable range—Japan—with 50, as compared with a minimum figure of 76—and Italy—with 37, as compared with a minimum of 51. In total, some 140 staff members needed to be recruited from under-represented countries in order to rectify the abnormal geographical distribution of the staff. That could easily be achieved by their appointment to the vacancies left by retiring staff members from over-represented countries, and by the provision in some cases for earlier retirement. Extension of the term of service beyond the pensionable age would tend to make the Secretariat more bureaucratic and block the infusion of new blood into the Organization. To that end, a concerted effort was needed by both the Office of Personnel and the substantive departments to recruit from under-represented countries and thus achieve equitable geographical distribution of staff.

39. Western Europe was considerably over-represented: compared with the desirable figure of 19.6 per cent, the actual proportion was 22.6 per cent, while the breakdown of those figures highlighted that imbalance even more strikingly. In the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a greater number of posts at the level of P-5 and above were filled by staff from Western Europe than from Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East taken together.

40. The situation at the United Nations Office at Geneva was even less satisfactory. Staff from Western Europe occupied two thirds of all posts, with a great preponderance of staff from only five States. Similarly, in the Office of Public Information, which should give a many-sided picture of United Nations activities, over 50 per cent of the staff came from Western European countries. Was a completely unbiased view possible in such circumstances?

41. It was necessary to analyse the reasons for the continuing failure to implement the many General Assembly resolutions and the provisions of the Charter regarding geographical distribution of staff. He noted from paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report that 81 appointments had been approved for nationals of over-represented countries, while only 63 candidates had been accepted from

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26.

under-represented countries. Table 5 of the report indicated that more candidates has been appointed from Western than from Eastern Europe. In an attempt to explain that unsatisfactory situation, it was stated in paragraph 26 that the rate of separation for Eastern Europe was 15.2 as compared to 8.1 for Western Europe. However, table 5 indicated that during the year under review the greatest number of separations (41) related to staff from Western Europe. Yet instead of exploiting that opportunity to increase the appointments from under-represented countries, it had been missed and the number of appointments from Western Europe exceeded separations.

42. Furthermore, as could be seen from table 4, the percentage of career staff from Western Europe had risen, constituting a serious obstacle to any future increase in staff from under-represented countries. In fact, the over-all proportion of permanent contracts had risen during the year under review from 64.8 per cent to 65.2 per cent. Twenty-three permanent contracts had been granted to nationals of over-represented countries, including countries such as the United Kingdom and Belgium, which were strongly over-represented. Those figures clearly indicated the reasons why representatives of the Western Powers propounded the advantages of permanent contracts, stressing the need for continuity in the work of the Secretariat and claiming that career staff were generally more efficient; such arguments were based on the views of officials of the League of Nations and no longer reflected the current situation in the Secretariat. Although the principle of granting fixed-term contracts was unopposed, it was clear that no real effort had been made to achieve the optimum combination of thytwo types of contract. While permanent contracts were useful in many fields, respect for the ideals of the United Nations was not confined to that category of post. There was a need to serve the interests of mankind as a whole by the application of new methods to solve new world problems and by co-operation that was truly international. Yet the truly international basis for recruitment to the Secretariat was systematically violated, while the preponderance of permanent contracts perpetuated stagnation and the reign of conservatism and bureaucracy. According to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Secretariat was failing to respond to the urgent need for flexibility; administrative methods were too conservative and too resistant to change.

43. For many years, the Chiang Kai-shek people had illegally occupied the seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and had filled almost the entire quota of the People's Republic (57-78) with its people—51—the great majority of whom—45 out of 51—held permanent contracts. Following the General Assembly's recent decision to restore the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, he wondered under which quota those 45 nationals would henceforth be represented.

44. In his delegation's view, the Secretariat must take measures to restrict the granting of permanent contracts for posts subject to geographical distribution. Furthermore, in order to ensure that the distribution was equitable, serious consideration should be given to a periodic review of existing permanent contracts, particularly contracts for posts at the policy-making level. There was no need for the adoption of new General Assembly resolutions on the

question, but rather for stricter implementation of existing ones, including resolution 2736 A (XXV).

45. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) said he wished to stress the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter; the question of permanent versus fixed-term contracts; the need for a long-term recruitment plan; and the need for a linguistic balance pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII).

46. It was patently clear that the universality of the Organization must be reflected in the universality of the staff of the Secretariat. The desire for the full implementation of that principle was motivated not by individual interests or national ambitions, but rather by the need to create the optimum conditions for carrying out the vital and complex tasks facing the Organization. Only a truly universal Secretariat, representing all geographical regions, political and social systems and national cultures could efficiently discharge its tasks in the interests of the whole international community. That fundamental principle had been paramount when Article 101 of the Charter was formulated, and had led to the adoption of a number of General Assembly resolutions on the subject. In resolution 2736 A (XXV), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution at all levels, particularly at the senior level.

47. It was clear from the Secretary-General's report that, while certain steps had been taken in that direction, the present situation was far from satisfactory; and in some cases it had even worsened. There had been a reduction in the number of staff members from Asia and the Far East and from Eastern Europe—both of which were already under-represented. As a result, the proportion of staff from Asia and the Far East had fallen during the period under review from 15.8 per cent to 15.1 per cent, as compared with the desirable figure of 17 per cent, and the proportion from Eastern Europe had fallen from 12.2 per cent to 11.7 per cent, as compared with the desirable figure of 16.2 per cent. His delegation earnestly hoped that the Secretary-General would intensify his efforts to ensure a more equitable geographical distribution of staff and that he would remedy the situation resulting from the fact that six African States were not yet represented. In cases where a high percentage of nationals of certain under-represented countries would soon be leaving the service, every effort must be made to avoid an even greater geographical imbalance.

48. One way to improve geographical distribution would be by adopting more equitable criteria with regard to fixed-term contracts. Many States which themselves lacked qualified administrative staff preferred fixed-term contracts, because they enabled them to participate in the work of the Secretariat without being deprived altogether of their most qualified staff. Past experience clearly showed that an increase in the number of fixed-term contracts would also improve the quality of the work of the Secretariat. Furthermore, a greater number of fixed-term contracts would provide more flexibility, enabling the Organization to benefit on a world-wide scale from the services of young specialists with a university education and

experience of their own national administrations. A continuous interchange of highly qualified staff between the United Nations and national administrations would benefit both parties.

49. His delegation had stated at the twenty-fifth session that, while it did not question the value of permanent contracts in principle, it saw definite advantage in granting contracts for a fixed-term of five to seven years and considered that the continuous interchange of staff should be provided for in the long-term recruitment plan under preparation.

50. His delegation was very much concerned that the number of fixed-term posts subject to geographical distribution had declined during the past year from 35.2 per cent to 34.8 per cent. There was a direct link between that phenomenon and the simultaneous reduction in the number of staff from certain under-represented regions. It hoped that the Secretary-General would make a special effort to remedy that situation. His delegation supported the establishment of a long-term recruitment plan and had expected that, in accordance with the view expressed by the Director of Personnel at the twenty-fifth session (1413th meeting), such a plan would be among the proposals on personnel management to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session. However, in view of the volume of work in hand, such a plan should be submitted to the Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

51. Bearing in mind the vital principle of universality, his delegation wished to urge very strongly the need for a

linguistic balance in the Secretariat. It could do so with complete objectivity, since Polish was not an official language; in fact, all considerations of national ambition should be excluded in efforts to achieve that balance. Linguistic balance was vital to enable the Organization to benefit from the thinking of people in all parts of the world and to avoid uniformity which could only weaken the effectiveness of the United Nations. Consequently, the knowledge of a second working language on the part of staff members was essential to ensure their practical value to the Secretariat. That was why his delegation wished to reiterate its support for paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) regarding second-language requirements for the promotion of Professional staff. His delegation hoped that the reservations expressed in the Committee regarding the application of that paragraph with effect from 1 January 1972 would not be maintained. Three years had elapsed since the adoption of the resolution; furthermore, the activities for improving linguistic knowledge were financed from the regular budget and took place during working hours. In that connexion, his delegation looked forward to the special report to be prepared on the subject, as stated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 15 of his foreword to the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3). Three years were more than sufficient for the purposes of acquiring a foreign language; his delegation accordingly considered that the resolution in question was very apposite and should be implemented with effect from 1 January 1972.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8525 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 89\* (A/C.5/1401)**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General, in his statement on the administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/1401) of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee (A/8525, para. 42), estimated that if the draft was adopted by the General Assembly, its implementation would necessitate an additional appropriation of \$31,000 under a new chapter of section 2 for 1972.

2. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had concluded, after examining the statement by the Secretary-General, that an additional appropriation of \$20,000 would suffice. The conclusion was based on the fact that the provisions in respect of internal reproduction and printing could be absorbed within the amounts already requested and that up to \$3,000 could be saved on the provisions for contractual translation by a slight reduction in the amount of documentation.

3. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it approve the draft resolution of the Sixth Committee, an additional appropriation of \$20,000 would be required under section 2 for 1972. If he heard no objection, he would assume that it was so decided.

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1459th meeting)

**Salary and retirement allowance of the Secretary-General  
(continued)\*\* (A/8408/Add.9, A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1)**

4. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had concurred with the Controller's estimate of the financial implications of the two proposals in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1. The proposal concerning the Secretary-General's salary would have no

adverse administrative implications for the United Nations or the United Nations system and the proposal concerning his retirement allowance would have no administrative implications at all, given the special position of the Secretary-General. The Committee had found, however, that past legislation governing the entitlement of the Secretary-General to a retirement allowance was not sufficiently well defined and it had suggested in paragraph 12 of its related report (A/8408/Add.9) that the draft resolution should be expanded in order to rectify the situation and remove any possible ambiguity.

5. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that, before preparing the draft resolution under consideration, his delegation had consulted extensively with the competent authorities, particularly the Office of the Controller, in order to ensure that nothing was omitted. The provisions just referred to by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee were implicit in the draft resolution. He therefore suggested that, in order to simplify matters, the Fifth Committee should take a decision on the principle. Then, if the draft resolution was adopted, the Rapporteur, when preparing his report to the General Assembly, could take into account the comments in paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report, which were intended to remove any ambiguity in the existing legislation on the subject.

6. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that, although his delegation, as a matter of principle, supported the most rigorous budgetary discipline, it had sponsored the draft resolution in order to bring the Secretary-General's salary into line with the increased cost of living and to make it more commensurate with the heavy responsibilities the post involved. Furthermore, passage of the draft resolution, by assuring him a decent retirement allowance, would constitute a token of appreciation for a man who had devoted 10 years of his life to the maintenance of peace and to the social and economic progress of the world. He hoped that the draft resolution would receive unanimous support.

7. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that since the Fifth Committee's report was supposed to be a factual account of what had happened, it would be more appropriate if the qualifications given in the Advisory Committee's report were included in the draft resolution.

8. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States Of America) said that, since one of the purposes of the Advisory Committee's comments was to establish the procedure for determining the Secretary-General's retirement allowance on a more formal basis, he assumed that that would be a key point in the Rapporteur's report.

9. After a brief procedural discussion in which Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia), Mr. FAURA (Peru),

\* Report of the Special Committee on the Question of Defining Aggression.

\*\* Resumed from the 1446th meeting.

Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands), Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria), Mr. MARRON (Spain), Mr. GUPTA (India) and Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago, Rapporteur) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Advisory Committee's comments should be included in the draft resolution rather than merely referred to or reproduced *in extenso* in the report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly.

*It was so decided.*

10. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that Algeria, Barbados, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Indonesia, Ireland, Lebanon, Nigeria, Tunisia and Yugoslavia had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. He had no objection to including the Advisory Committee's comments in operative paragraph 2 of the draft if the Chairman of that Committee really considered it to be indispensable.

11. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he would need legal advice before venturing to say that it was indispensable to expand operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. It was, however, highly desirable to do so, for it was important to be explicit in a question of that kind. The addition to paragraph 2 did not constitute an amendment, since it would not change the substance of the draft resolution. In so far as any ambiguity did exist, it derived from the state of the existing legislation; it could be removed by expanding operative paragraph 2.

12. The CHAIRMAN said he would put to the vote draft resolution A/C.5/L.1062/Rev.1, which would also include an expanded operative paragraph 2, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 12 of its report (A/8408/Add.9).

*The draft resolution was adopted by 68 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

Personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8454, A/8483, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26):

(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26)

13. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the attention given by the General Assembly to the question of geographical distribution of United Nations Secretariat staff was very appropriate in view of the importance of that question in the light of the Charter requirements.

14. Certain countries, including his own, had had the opportunity to fill only an insignificant part of their quota of staff members. Despite the fact that important provisions concerning the principle of geographical distribution were contained in General Assembly resolutions 2539 (XXIV) and 2736 (XXV), and that, at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions, the Fifth Committee had adopted recommendations requesting the Secretary-General to re-

solve the problem of under-representation as quickly as possible, the situation remained unsatisfactory. The Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/8483), which should have provided a clear picture of the specific measures taken to implement the relevant General Assembly resolutions, was not satisfactory to his delegation. In paragraph 3 of the report, it was stated that no recommendations on recruitment policy had been included, pending the outcome of the review entrusted to the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and the follow-up action proposed in the Joint Inspection Unit report on personnel problems (A/8454). That argument was not convincing, since both the work of the Special Committee and the Joint Inspection Unit report would be considered at a later stage under specific agenda items.

15. His delegation felt entitled to expect the Secretary-General's report to focus on the measures taken to implement the relevant General Assembly decisions and recommendations. Chapter III (Application of the guidelines) did refer to a number of measures, but the report gave no information on really decisive measures to correct the imbalance in the geographical distribution of staff.

16. Resolution 2539 (XXIV) welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to prepare a long-term plan of recruitment as a means of accelerating the achievement of equitable geographical distribution. Furthermore, in paragraph 12 of his report on the composition of the Secretariat<sup>1</sup> submitted at the twenty-fifth session, the Secretary-General had stated that arrangements had been made to draw up such a recruitment plan. Unfortunately the report under consideration gave no indication as to the fate of the plan. His delegation strongly urged that the preparation of such a plan, as a means of solving the problem of under-representation, should receive the fullest attention of the Secretariat.

17. Reference was made in the report before the Committee to continuing effort by the Secretariat to recruit staff from under-represented countries. Yet that effort had to be judged on the basis of its results. Paragraph 14 indicated that, while 63 appointments had been made from under-represented countries, 81 candidates had been appointed from over-represented countries. Could efforts of that magnitude help to solve the problem? He fully supported the view of the representative of Japan at the previous meeting that the proportion of 34 per cent for nationals of over-represented countries was too high to be explained on the basis of exceptional circumstances. Such a recruitment policy was not consistent with the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV). Indeed, as a result of the failure to observe those guidelines, the situation in two under-represented regions—Asia and the Far East and Eastern Europe—had even deteriorated. The situation was very different in the case of the third under-represented region referred to in the report, namely, North America and the Caribbean: although the number of staff was already above the minimum quota, appointments from that region continued to increase steadily, the candidates coming mainly from North America.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 82, document A/8156.



18. It was also impossible to disregard the negative consequences of the practice of recruiting predominantly career staff. In that connexion, his delegation shared the views expressed by the representatives of the USSR and Poland at the previous meeting. Table 4 of the report indicated that during the past year, the proportion of permanent contracts had risen from 64.8 per cent to 65.2 per cent. That trend in no way contributed to an equitable geographical distribution of staff. It was clear from table 10 that the situation with regard to the under-represented countries was as critical as it had been several years earlier. The situation of the most acutely under-represented countries remained unchanged; the Ukrainian SSR, for example, was represented by 14 staff members as compared with a quota of 30-36. His delegation urgently appealed to the Secretariat to take radical measures to rectify that unacceptable situation. A solution to the problem of under-representation would improve the functioning of all United Nations bodies and assist considerably in achieving the objectives embodied in the Charter.

19. The Committee's report to the General Assembly should include a paragraph indicating the measures required to implement Assembly decisions. To that end, he wished to introduce, on behalf of the delegations of Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, the following draft text:

“The Fifth Committee, concerned at the lack of progress in achieving equitable geographical distribution within the United Nations Secretariat, requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take effective measures to ensure the speedy implementation of resolutions 2539 (XXIV) and 2736 (XXV) and other General Assembly decisions relating to this question. In this connexion, particular attention should be given to the application of the guidelines for the recruitment of staff set out in resolution 2736 (XXV), and, in particular, to the principle that, in the recruitment of staff for posts at all levels which are subject to geographical distribution, particularly posts at the senior level, preference should be given to qualified candidates of under-represented countries. The Committee also requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, a special report on the situation with regard to the implementation of the above-mentioned General Assembly decisions and a long-term plan of recruitment to serve as a means of expediting the achievement of equitable geographical distribution of staff.”<sup>2</sup>

20. He hoped that the draft, which reflected the discussion in the Committee and which had been favourably received by a number of delegations, would meet with the unanimous support of the Committee.

*Mr. Woschnagg (Austria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

21. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that every year reports were produced on the composition of the Secretariat yet the situation had still not improved after 26 years. On the one hand, there was a quota system to ensure equitable geographical distribution, while on the other it was stipulated that, in the employment of the staff, account must be

taken of the efficiency of candidates. The problem of applying those two different criteria required clarification.

22. The representative of USSR had been quite right in drawing attention to the imbalance in the composition of staff of so important a section of the Secretariat as the Office of Public Information, where 50 per cent of the staff were nationals of Western countries. The situation was similar in the United Nations Office at Geneva.

23. It was clear from the Secretary-General's report that yet another year would now elapse without any improvement in the situation. In fact, it had been difficult in the past to elicit clear replies from the Secretariat. However, since his delegation had the greatest confidence in the Secretary-General and the Director of Personnel, it trusted that the following year the situation would be rectified.

24. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) recalled that, at the eighteenth and twenty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly, his delegation had stressed the fact that in applying the principle of equitable geographical distribution, account should be taken not only of the number of nationals of Member States in the Secretariat but also of the need to ensure that all regions, and particularly Latin America, were equitably represented in senior Secretariat posts. Members would recall, too, that at the twenty-fifth session (1407th meeting, para. 40), Colombia had welcomed the Secretary-General's statement of intention<sup>1</sup> to recruit young men and women from all parts of the world to permanent posts on the Secretariat. His delegation had also indicated that the number of women on the staff in general and in senior posts in particular should be increased. His delegation had also said that it supported the new countries' legitimate desire that their nationals should form a permanent part of the Secretariat and thus share in the work being done by nationals of the older countries.

25. If the composition of the Secretariat was to be so balanced as to reflect the diversity of the international community, the participation of nationals of the developing countries must be increased. Those countries could not accept a situation which prevented them from occupying senior administrative posts, for it was the incumbents of those posts who were responsible for implementing the decisions adopted by Governments in the Organization's policy-making bodies. In other words, the responsibility exercised by Governments in policy-making bodies should be reflected in the composition of the senior staff responsible for implementing United Nations programmes. All States Members should participate on an equal footing not only in the Organization's legislative organs but also in the executing machinery, namely, the Secretariat.

26. During the many years in which the question had been discussed by the General Assembly, measures had been taken to improve the geographical distribution of members of the Secretariat. Those measures had been aimed, however, solely at solving the quantitative problem; no attempt had been made to deal with the qualitative aspect of the question. It was not sufficient to achieve apparent equilibrium by allocating posts in the lower grades to the developing countries. For the equilibrium to be real, it must also be achieved in senior posts, for it was only by a more equitable distribution of those posts that the Secretariat would become truly representative of Member States.

<sup>2</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29.



27. His arguments were borne out by the statistics provided in the Secretary-General's report under consideration. Thus, reference to table 7 of the report showed that only 20 of the 270 staff in senior posts were Latin Americans. Moreover, it was possible that the situation was even worse than it appeared, because the figures to which he had referred did not include the staff of such organizations as UNCTAD, UNDP, UNICEF, UNITAR and UNIDO, where the imbalance in senior staff was even more acute than in the Secretariat. Barely one third of the 270 posts to which he had referred were occupied by nationals of developing countries despite the fact that those countries accounted for more than two thirds of the world's population. In other words, the principle of equitable geographical distribution laid down in the Charter was not being respected.

28. The General Assembly had expressed its concern at the situation in various resolutions, including resolution 1852 (XVII) which, in paragraph 1, and particularly subparagraphs (a), (c) and (d) thereof, had established guidelines to be followed by the Secretary-General in his efforts to achieve a more equitable geographical distribution. Moreover, in the second preambular paragraph of that resolution, the Assembly had recognized that the principle of equitable geographical distribution did not conflict with the paramount considerations of employment of staff laid down in Article 101 of the Charter. It was surprising that the Secretariat had not paid more attention to the provisions of that resolution, particularly in so far as the less developed regions were concerned. Indeed, that was why, at its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2736 A (XXV) which, in paragraph 1, requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to achieve a better geographical distribution of the staff at all levels, particularly at the senior level in all fields, and, in preambular paragraph 3, recognized the need for a more equitable geographical distribution of the staff among regions and within each region.

29. In conclusion, he said that he hoped that his comments would be borne in mind by all those responsible for ensuring that the principle of equality laid down in the Charter was respected.

30. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that in view of the importance her delegation attached to the issue, she wished to restate for the record the views of her delegation on the question of the composition of the Secretariat.

31. Any assessment of the Secretary-General's report must start from the fundamental principles laid down in the Charter which, in Article 101 (3) provided that the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service should be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and that due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. There was no ambiguity there. The emphasis was placed squarely on the importance of efficiency, competence and integrity, and staff recruitment was to be on as wide a geographical basis as possible consistent with those requirements.

32. Nearly every speaker in both the general discussion of agenda item 76 and in the discussion on section 3 of the

budget estimates for 1972 had mentioned the importance of securing higher productivity in the Secretariat. It was vital to recognize, however, that higher productivity could not be achieved unless the priorities laid down in Article 101 (3) of the Charter were observed. The United Kingdom fully supported efforts to secure better geographical and linguistic balance in the Secretariat, but the Charter required that they should be sought within the framework of greater efficiency. It would not be to the advantage of the United Nations to complement the Secretariat on a basis which would promote the second objective of Article 101 (3) at the expense of the first if, to do so would reduce capacity to secure maximum productivity and effectiveness.

33. In that connexion, she referred members to paragraphs 17-20 of the report on the ninth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/5038) which recorded the Committee's discussion on the Secretary-General's report on work programme performance in the economic, social and human rights fields in 1970.<sup>3</sup> In paragraph 5, page 15, of the latter report, it was stated that in certain areas within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs there was a serious problem of staff because a high proportion of vacancies at the Professional level could not be filled because of present constraints regarding internationally recruited staff. In effect, a rigid interpretation of the principle of equitable geographical distribution resulted in a large number of vacancies, a situation which was having an adverse effect on important programmes in the economic and social fields. It was unfortunate that programme priorities were being established simply by reference to the recruitment situation rather than the content of the programme and that projects were being postponed simply because staff was not available. Clearly, a more flexible approach to the question of recruitment should be adopted.

34. Her delegation recognized that the number of United Kingdom nationals employed in 1971 had exceeded the desirable range. In that respect, however, the United Kingdom's position was comparable to that of many other countries for over-representation existed in respect of countries in all regional groups. Moreover, successive reports on the composition of the Secretariat had shown clearly that the number of United Kingdom nationals had declined significantly over the past few years and it was likely that the decline would continue at an accelerated rate in the next few years. This decline flowed from the age structure which reflected the build-up of staff during the early years of the Organization. Her delegation, which endorsed the provisions of Article 101 (3) of the Charter, was concerned that recruitment on as wide a geographical basis as possible should result in long-term equilibrium. Only a comprehensive personnel policy, based on career recruitment, encompassing effective training, would enable the staff to achieve their full potential—to the benefit of the Organization and Member States. It was essential, therefore, to take account of separations and forthcoming separations and rejuvenate the Secretariat by recruitment of youth on a wide geographical basis. In that respect, she reminded the Committee that in resolution 2736 (XXV), the General Assembly had called for special efforts to recruit young men and women and said that her delegation supported the call for involving youth in the work of the

<sup>3</sup> Document E/AC.51/52 of 15 April 1971.

United Nations made by the representative of Ghana at the previous meeting.

35. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said his delegation understood that, in the view of the Secretariat, no major alteration of the recruitment guidelines was needed for the coming year. For that reason, he hoped that no draft resolution would be necessary; in fact, so many attempts had been made over the years to improve the guidelines that it was probable that no further resolutions could improve the situation. Only a persistent effort by the Secretariat to implement the existing guidelines over a longer period could correct the more obvious imbalances in the composition of staff.

36. He had several comments to make regarding the Secretary-General's report. First, he noted that in paragraph 16, in order to ensure a better linguistic balance in the secretariat of ECA, three more staff members had been appointed from French-speaking countries of the region, even though those countries were already over-represented in the Secretariat as a whole. In that connexion, he considered that the concept of linguistic balance sometimes ran counter to the principle of geographical distribution. While that might be unavoidable in certain cases, it should not be allowed to become the rule. Second, table 4 indicated that the proportion of fixed-term contracts had declined in the year under review from 35.2 per cent to 34.8 per cent. While that was a step in the right direction, there was a long way to go to achieve the ratio suggested by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, namely, a ratio of 25 per cent of fixed-term contracts.

37. He had used the phrase "more obvious imbalances" advisedly: he wished to remind the Committee that what was often termed a quota system, namely, the use of desirable ranges, had never been intended to be applied as a precise, mathematical formula; it was meant to be used merely as a yardstick in efforts to achieve a more balanced composition of staff. His delegation did not believe that it would ever be possible to achieve a precise, mathematically ideal situation.

38. Finally, he wished to recall a point made by his delegation at the previous session: whereas the Secretary-General's annual report on the composition of the Secretariat gave a clear picture of the current situation as compared with the previous year, it did not indicate the trend over a period of, say, 10 years. In fact, his delegation believed that an improvement in the situation had taken place over that period. He wished to submit the following proposal for consideration by the Fifth Committee:

"In order to enable the Committee to acquire a clear picture of the long-term trends in the movements of the composition of the Secretariat, the Fifth Committee requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on the composition of the Secretariat a table showing each country's position in relation to the desirable ranges over the last 10 years."<sup>4</sup>

39. Without wishing to dictate to the Secretariat how it should carry out the proposed task, he suggested that it

would probably be sufficient if the table gave figures for alternate years rather than for each year. He also suggested that it would be unnecessary to include the desirable ranges, which were already contained in a table in the present format; it would probably be sufficient to indicate the actual position in relation to the desirable range. For example, if the number of staff of a country was within the desirable range, a zero could be inserted in the appropriate column; if the number of staff of that country was five over the upper figure of the range, that could be indicated by "+5"; and if the number was five below the minimum figure, that could be indicated by "-5". In that way, the essential information could be given most concisely.

40. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that, in general, his delegation supported the views expressed by the representatives of Peru and Colombia on the subject of the equitable geographical distribution of staff. It hoped that recruitment of Professional and higher-level staff in the Secretariat would be carried out in accordance with the guidelines established in General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV).

41. The Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat did not define sufficiently clearly the criteria governing recruitment to posts in the regional economic commissions. There had, for instance, been a case in which, although the executive secretary of a regional economic commission had approved the appointment of an Indonesian to a senior post, his approval had been overruled and an official from another area sent to fill the vacancy. To avoid such cases in future, he hoped that the principle of equitable geographical distribution would be objectively observed in the matter of recruitment to the regional economic commissions.

42. It was well known that the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions held the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. It was also well known that, as a result of an Administrative Management Service recommendation, four more Assistant Secretaries-General had been appointed to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and that, following the reorganization of UNDP, four more Assistant Secretaries-General had been appointed to that organization as well. In the circumstances, it would seem appropriate to consider the possibility of reclassifying from Assistant Secretary-General to Under-Secretary-General, the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, which promoted the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations in such fields as population, industrialization, agriculture, science and technology and international trade. Despite the financial implications of the measure, reclassification did seem to be called for.

43. Turning to the subject of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII), he said that, like the delegation of Ghana (1459th meeting), his delegation would be interested to learn what steps had been taken to safeguard the interests of those staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the Organization. His delegation was aware that courses in the working languages were being conducted at Headquarters. It appeared, however, that they were becoming increasingly difficult and complicated and it had even been suggested that the intention was to discourage students from taking them. While his delega-

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.28.

tion tended to discount such rumours, there was never smoke without a fire.

44. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that it was clear from the Secretary-General's report that efforts had been made to improve the composition of the Secretariat in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2736 (XXV). In the 10 months since the adoption of that resolution, progress had been made in improving the geographical distribution of the staff without lowering the standards of the Organization. In such a complex organization as the United Nations, steps to rectify the under-representation of certain countries had to be taken gradually and in keeping with the requirements of Article 101 (3) of the Charter. The objective of an equitable distribution of staff must be attained, but not in a way that would adversely affect the implementation of approved programmes. It would appear from document E/AC.51/52<sup>3</sup> that some programmes had indeed been adversely affected by the non-availability of staff. Subject to those comments, his delegation viewed with sympathy the proposal submitted to the Committee by the delegation of the Ukrainian SSR. At the same time, it wished to emphasize the part that the under-represented countries themselves could play in providing qualified candidates for the Secretariat. It might be useful if special recruitment missions such as those sent to Japan and the Soviet Union could be sent to other under-represented countries.

45. The Fifth Committee could not put the Secretary-General in a straitjacket and at the same time expect him to produce an efficient Secretariat. The guidelines concerning the composition of the staff laid down in various General Assembly resolutions were intended to facilitate the Secretary-General's task and it was to be hoped that if he encountered difficulty in abiding by them, the Secretary-General would so inform the Committee. In that connexion, his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that there was no need for the Committee to issue further guidelines at the current session and that it would be preferable to await the reports of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and of the follow-up action proposed by Mr. Bertrand in his report on personnel problems (A/8454).

46. The proposal put forward by the delegations of Ghana and Japan (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26) deserved sympathetic consideration because the nationals of countries whose language was not a working language of the Organization were at a disadvantage in so far as the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) were concerned. It was for that reason that, in paragraph 2 (d) of resolution 2736 A (XXV), the General Assembly had suggested that special allowance should be made, in recruitment policies, for candidates whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the Secretariat.

47. According to paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report, the proportion of staff from Asia and the Far East had declined from 15.8 to 15.1 per cent as compared with the target of 17 per cent which represented the desirable range for the region. That was disappointing, and his delegation urged that suitable action be taken to improve the situation. It also hoped that, in dealing with the question of the appointment to the staff of nationals of the People's Republic of China, a procedure acceptable to the Government of that country would be worked out.

48. Referring to table 19 of the Secretary-General's report, he said that in resolution 2736 C (XXV) the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to continue to supply information of the same nature as he had supplied in the report he had submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. In previous reports, the contributions made by various countries had been indicated along with the number of posts held by nationals of those countries. In the report under consideration, however, there was no column indicating Member States' contributions. Such information was very useful and should be supplied in pursuance of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2736 C (XXV).

49. His delegation supported the proposal put forward by the Indonesian delegation concerning the reclassification of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions. It also supported the proposal put forward by the Norwegian delegation; a table showing trends in the composition of the Secretariat over the past 10 years would help the Committee to reach a judicious decision in the matter.

50. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that the sponsors of the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26 were not opposed to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2480 (XXIII); acquisition by staff members of a second language would certainly make for a more efficient Secretariat. Their purpose was merely to emphasize that those whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the Secretariat should not be made to suffer through application of the provisions of resolution 2480 (XXIII). General Assembly resolution 2736 (XXV) called for special efforts to recruit young men and women through the development of objective selection methods and stressed that special allowances should be made for those whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the Secretariat. The Japanese and Ghanaian delegations were merely requesting that that provision be applied in implementing resolution 2480 (XXIII).

51. Mr. KOEFLER (Austria) said that according to established procedure, the deadline for the collection of data for inclusion in the Secretary-General's reports on the staff of the United Nations Secretariat and on the composition of the Secretariat was 31 August and the reports were not issued until the beginning of November. That did not allow delegations sufficient time to study the reports properly. His delegation proposed therefore that in its report, the Fifth Committee should include a paragraph<sup>5</sup> indicating that it had decided that the deadlines applied to the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the staff of the United Nations Secretariat and the composition of the Secretariat should be advanced from 31 August to 30 June, beginning with 1972, and requested that those reports should be circulated to Member States each year not later than 1 September.

52. The CHAIRMAN said that texts of the Austrian, Norwegian and Ukrainian SSR proposals would be circulated by the following meeting.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*

<sup>5</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.27.



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (for the A/. . . and A/C.5/. . . documents see the 1459th meeting; A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 14, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25, E/5038)

*Statement by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
of the United Nations International School*

1. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Chef de Cabinet), speaking as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School, said that he was grateful to the members of the Committee for allowing him to address them on behalf of UNIS. Earlier in 1971, he had been asked to become Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UNIS, but as Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General he had been involved for 10 years in every stage of decisions concerning the School and its premises. As was well known, various problems relating to a site for the School had been encountered in the past, but in 1971 the Board of Trustees had decided to go ahead with plans to erect a new building on landfill in the East River at 25th Street. Work on the project was proceeding according to schedule.

2. Members would be interested to hear that UNIS maintained a high standard of academic excellence. In 1971, every student taking the International Baccalaureate had been successful and graduates of the School had encountered no difficulty in obtaining places in famous institutions of higher learning, both in the United States and elsewhere.

3. Unfortunately, the financial picture was not so bright. For some years, the Board of Trustees had realized that if the School was to make progress and maintain its high standards it should be able to rely on a source of income other than tuition fees. It was for that reason that the UNIS Development Fund had been established. Progress in building up the Fund had been only modest, however, and the target of \$6.5 million was very far from being achieved. On 3 November 1971, the Secretary-General had appointed Mr. Edgar Bronsman and Mr. James Linen as co-chairmen of the Development Fund Committee, and it was hoped, with their co-operation, to make a start towards reaching the target. The only solution to the problem other than the

Development Fund would be a major involvement of the United Nations in the School.

4. The School was one of the most imaginative accomplishments of the United Nations, and currently over 1,000 pupils from nearly 100 countries were pursuing their studies in accordance with the international spirit of the United Nations Charter. It would seem, therefore, that the Organization had a major responsibility to save the School from the financial crisis facing it, for it would not be possible, through increased fees and income from the Development Fund alone, to avert the crisis. In any case, a further increase in fees, which were already beyond the means of many parents now sending their children to UNIS, would probably cause a further decline in the enrolment of children of members of delegations and United Nations staff and threaten the very purpose of the School, namely, education in an international milieu. The problem of increased education costs was not confined to New York. Fees for senior classes at the International School in Geneva, for instance, had risen from \$800 in 1965 to \$1,450 in 1971. Corresponding figures for the same years were \$1,250 and \$1,800 for UNIS in New York and \$1,000 and \$1,800 for the Lycée français de New York. There would thus seem to be overwhelming considerations in favour of greater United Nations support for UNIS. It was interesting to note in that connexion that the European Economic Community maintained six schools which the children of its staff members attended free of charge. Another point to be borne in mind was that, for many members of delegations and of the staff, the only alternative to UNIS was a school in their home country.

5. The United Nations was aware of the important role played by UNIS and did support it from its regular budget. It was unlikely, however, that that support and the \$11.5 million contribution from the Ford Foundation would prove sufficient. The Organization could provide additional support by increasing the financial assistance it gave to parents or by increasing its direct assistance to the School. The Board of Trustees hoped that for the year 1972/73 the School would be able to avoid a serious increase in fees. The School's budgetary crisis would also be met if the Organization decided to pay the education grant to all staff parents. In view of the fact that school fees had risen everywhere, the ceiling on the education grant might also be reconsidered. In addition, it would help if Member States would consider the possibility of making gifts of furniture and fittings for the new building. Unless the Organization took steps to deal with the financial crisis of UNIS as a matter of urgency, the School would become simply a private school like any other in New York, attended by children whose parents were not connected with the United Nations.

6. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that the United Nations International School was an institution of great importance and significance in the life of the Organization. His delegation was fully aware of the important work accomplished by the Chairman and members of the Board of Trustees. The Committee should do all in its power to ensure that the new building project could be brought to a successful conclusion and that the School could continue to serve the worthy purpose for which it had been established.

7. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, drew attention to paragraph 14 of the first report of the General Committee<sup>1</sup> and asked why the Committee was discussing the question of UNIS.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Committee had decided to recommend the deletion from the agenda of the item relating to UNIS because it had felt that the question would be discussed in the context of the budget estimates for 1972.

9. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked under what section of the budget estimates the question would be discussed.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that UNIS would be discussed under section 12, which had already been approved on first reading.

11. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether, in that case, the Committee was currently engaged in the second reading of section 12.

12. The CHAIRMAN replied in the negative. The Committee had merely courteously afforded the Chairman of the UNIS Board of Trustees an opportunity to address it on the subject of the School and its new premises. It was not his intention that the Committee should discuss the question at its current meeting. On the other hand, he could not prevent members from putting questions to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. As soon as the representative of Italy, who had asked for the floor, had made his comments, the debate on the question would be closed for the time being.

13. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) associated himself with the comments made by the representative of Peru. He noted that the proceeds from the sale of a United Nations commemorative stamp were to be allocated to the UNIS Development Fund and said that it would be interesting to learn the opinion of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees on that method of raising funds. It would also be interesting to know whether the stamp would be sold in Geneva as well as New York and, if so, how the proceeds from the sale would be divided between the International School in Geneva and UNIS in New York.

14. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Chef de Cabinet) said that the question of dividing the proceeds from the sale of the stamp between Geneva and New York could not be discussed until the amount of the proceeds was known. It was anticipated that it would approach \$500,000. The question put by the representative of Italy would, however, be borne in mind.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 8, document A/8500.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (*continued*) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/REV.1)

*HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION (continued)*  
(A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/REV.1)

15. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, said that it was self-explanatory, since, essentially, it noted certain incontrovertible facts and advocated measures which its sponsors considered indispensable at the present stage. The preambular paragraphs merely took note of facts which had been made known to the General Assembly. With regard to the fourth preambular paragraph, he recalled that one of the principle arguments adduced to persuade other organizations of the United Nations system to approve the financial arrangements suggested for the construction project had been that postponement of the work would involve an appreciable increase in building costs. That argument, which had seemed so strong in 1969, was even stronger in 1971 and would continue to gain strength as time went on.

16. The operative paragraphs were merely a logical consequence of the facts set out in the preamble. With regard to paragraph 1, for instance, it could not be denied that, for well-known reasons, paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV) could not be implemented. The Assembly should note that fact and state it in legal terms in a resolution. As to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, it would be absurd to retain in the budget an item pertaining to a construction project which, because one of the parties to the financial arrangement had withdrawn its contribution, would not be implemented. Since the extension project in New York would never be carried out, it seemed logical to transfer the \$2 million appropriation made for that purpose in the budget for the financial year 1971 and use it for work on the premises of other United Nations offices outside New York City. In any case, the General Assembly must take a decision concerning the \$2 million appropriation. The studies referred to in paragraph 4 should have been submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session. Indeed, it was surprising that the only information transmitted to the Committee in 1971 had been that the construction project in New York could not be undertaken. That was an obvious fact, but it made it even more necessary for the General Assembly to have the additional information it had requested of the Secretary-General. As to the request made in paragraph 5, it seemed only courteous to bring the situation to the attention of UNDP and UNICEF—which had been urged to enter into commitments for work that could not now be carried out—so that their governing bodies could take appropriate measures.

17. The purpose of the draft resolution was to take note of the facts and adopt decisions relating to those facts. No judgement was pronounced; the draft resolution merely made it clear that the General Assembly must act in accordance with the facts that made the proposed extension at Headquarters impossible. The result of the proposal

had been that the United Nations, and the host country, had induced other agencies to commit funds that had been intended, not for construction work, but for development of the developing countries, for assistance to children, and for promoting the interests of the third world. There had been lengthy discussion in the governing bodies of those agencies, and the outcome had been that, because they needed new premises, they had undertaken to contribute to a project which it had now become impossible to carry out. It was important that UNDP, UNICEF and all United Nations bodies concerned with international co-operation and assistance to developing countries should devote maximum efforts to those tasks. Adoption of the draft resolution would at least have the effect of enabling the two agencies concerned, now that their financial commitments in respect of the Headquarters project could be cancelled, to take decisions permitting more funds to be devoted to the developing countries.

18. Furthermore, a decision must be taken in 1971 regarding the inapplicable provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV). The Assembly was not responsible for the fact that implementation had been rendered impossible, and it should take note of the fact that, because of the withdrawal of another party, the work could not be carried out. Both the Secretary-General and representatives of the United States had indicated not only that it was impossible to carry out the project now but that there was no reason to believe at present that the situation could ultimately be saved. A decision to rescind the provisions adopted at the twenty-fourth session did not automatically exclude the possibility that in future the General Assembly might examine other proposals concerning construction at Headquarters; the Assembly was a sovereign body, and was free to decide to reconsider such proposals as those discussed in 1969. But the particular formula now annulled by the withdrawal of one party should also be cancelled by the Assembly, without prejudice to future decisions.

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

Personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8454, A/8483, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26 to 29):

(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26 to 29)

19. Mr. GUPTA (India) said he agreed with the Ukrainian representative's comments on paragraphs 15, 24 and 25 of the Secretary-General's report (A/8483). There had been a further decline in the representation of the countries of Eastern Europe and the ECAFE region, which were already under-represented, and the largest increase in new staff appointments had been among the Western European group, which was over-represented. As in previous years, India was concerned over the large population reserve for the Asia and Far East region, and it had never received satisfactory answers to questions on that point. The population reserves for all other regions were very much smaller; he did not see why the reserve should not be distributed among the various countries, or why there should be a population reserve at all. In its resolution 2736 A (XXV) the General Assembly had reiterated its

interest in a long-term plan of recruitment, but there was no reference to such a plan in the Secretary-General's report. He hoped that the next report would include a substantive section on that subject.

20. Turning to the various proposals before the Committee, he said that he could support the Austrian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.27). He could also support the Norwegian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.28), but suggested that there should be separate columns for permanent and fixed-term staff and that the figures should be given both as absolute figures and as percentages. That would give the whole picture at a glance, both for particular countries and in terms of comparisons between countries. Table 10 in the report under consideration seemed to indicate that, for instance, Burma was slightly more over-represented than Indonesia, but it would be easier to analyse the situation if the percentages were given.

21. He proposed that the text submitted by Ghana and Japan (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26) should be amended through the addition of wording indicating that the Secretary-General should include in his annual report on the composition of the Secretariat information regarding measures taken to safeguard the interests of those staff members whose mother tongues were not one of the official or working languages of the United Nations. The purpose of the amendment was to keep the Committee informed so that merely hollow assurances were not given in this regard.

22. He also proposed that the Committee's report to the General Assembly should include wording requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System a special report on the question of a long-term plan of recruitment, bearing in mind the decisions of the General Assembly and the discussions in the Fifth Committee in recent years. The Special Committee's mandate included the question of recruitment, and he was aware that it would be the subject of a series of recommendations by that Committee, which should therefore be advised of the Secretariat's thinking on the matter so that it could be taken into account.

23. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) endorsed the proposal by Ghana and Japan. He realized that the decision adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2480 B (XXIII) could not be reversed and was due to be implemented on 1 January 1972. Much would depend on how the resolution was implemented with regard to staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages, and care must be taken not to commit any injustice. In Africa, most people were obliged to learn three languages—their tribal mother tongue, the national language, and an alien European language for communicating with the outside world. It would be a great burden to add a fourth language. Consequently, he hoped that the Secretary-General would be given some discretion in implementing the resolution.

24. He commended the Secretariat for its efforts to redress the geographical imbalance in the staff, although there was still room for improvement. He noted that, of the 270 senior posts D-1 and above, only 22 were held by Africans. Even within Africa distribution could be improved, since only one senior Secretariat post was held by anyone from the whole belt of East and Central Africa,



from Ethiopia in the north to Botswana in the south. The African countries could not easily spare their experienced senior staff, and it would therefore be easier for their nationals to accept fixed-term appointments.

25. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) pointed out that General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) referred to knowledge of a second language, and not of a second working language. General Assembly resolution 2736 A (XXV) provided that, in the recruitment of staff, special allowance should be made for candidates whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages of the Secretariat. Resolution 2480 B (XXIII) established a very narrow margin of flexibility within which the Secretary-General could act, providing for the promotion of staff members not fulfilling the second-language requirement only if the Secretary-General deemed it necessary for the proper functioning of the Secretariat. In his view, the restriction of promotions in the Professional category to those having a knowledge of a second working language was unfair. None of the nationals of African and Arab countries had a Secretariat working language as their mother tongue, although many Africans spoke excellent English or French. At present there seemed no prospect that Arabic would be added as a working language. He supported the proposal by Ghana and Japan that the interests of staff members whose mother tongue was not a working language should be protected. The proposal did not mean that such staff members were not expected to benefit from the United Nations language courses. But the language criterion must not be applied too rigidly in deciding on promotions, if the interests of the staff members referred to were not to suffer. Obviously, a highly efficient staff member without a second language should not be passed over for one with language qualifications who was much less efficient.

26. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that his delegation and the delegation of Japan could accept the Indian amendment, which would strengthen their proposal. Referring to the point raised by the representative of the Sudan, he said that resolution 2480 B (XXIII), paragraph 3 specified that the second language in question must be one of the official languages listed in rule 51 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. That was why the wording of the present proposal had been changed to read "whose mother tongue is not one of the official languages of the United Nations".

27. Mr. NAUDY (France) noted with satisfaction that the proposal by Ghana and Japan was not intended to call into question General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII), of which France had been a sponsor. The basic principle underlying that resolution was the result of a compromise, and the intention was to promote a linguistic balance in the Secretariat. The resolution was already being applied, and many staff members were learning a second language. No measure to change the situation established by resolution 2480 B (XXIII), or to discourage its application, could be supported by France. Perhaps the Secretariat could indicate how the interests of staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages could be safeguarded.

28. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel) said the representative of Japan had asked (1459th meeting) why 81 appointments had gone to nationals of over-represented

countries. Those appointments had been made after the Secretary-General had established either that no qualified candidates were available from other countries or that such candidates could not be found in time to permit execution of the work programmes without delay. The Secretary-General had concluded that no other candidates could meet the requirements after great efforts had been made to recruit them. All Member States had been informed of the vacancies, and the prolonged recruiting efforts had delayed the appointments for six to nine months, and in some cases for longer. When nationals of over-represented countries were recruited, efforts continued with a view to replacing them at the end of their fixed-term appointments. Certain vacancies were particularly difficult to fill, notably for economists, statisticians, planning experts and executors of development projects, including industrial development. He wished to assure the United Kingdom representative that geographical distribution had never been the sole reason for certain vacancies, although it had been a cause of delay in recruitment.

29. The representative of Japan had referred to paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report and had asked why only three nationals of under-represented countries had been appointed to certain of the 12 vacant posts at the senior levels. Seven of the 12 vacancies had been filled by nationals of under-represented countries or of countries within the desirable range. Of the remaining five vacancies, three had been in highly technical fields and no candidate had been put forward by under-represented countries. One of the other two posts, because of its nature, had to be held by a high official of a certain Government, and the last one was a political post which it was desirable should be given to an African.

30. The representative of Italy had suggested (1459th meeting) that special recruiting efforts should be made in his country; a recruiting mission was being sent, and he would contact the Italian delegation on the subject.

31. The representative of Ghana had asked (1459th meeting) what was being done to protect the interests of staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages. General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII)—the result of long discussions—had provided that benefits should be given, in the form of promotional preference, to staff members with a knowledge of two working languages, in order to restore the linguistic balance in the Secretariat. It had also provided that the Secretary-General might authorize the promotion of staff members who did not fulfil the language conditions if he deemed it necessary for the proper functioning of the Secretariat, and that he should indicate what action had been taken in that respect in his annual report to the General Assembly on personnel questions. The status of efficient staff members responsible for the smooth functioning of the Secretariat would thus always be protected.

32. He had no objection to the Austrian proposal that the report on the composition of the Secretariat should be based on statistics up to 30 June instead of 31 August, for circulation by 1 September, provided it was understood, first, that the report for 1972 would not necessarily indicate many new appointments and, second, that the date of 1 September could be adhered to only if staff resources

permitted. If the report on the composition of the Secretariat appeared at the same time as the staff list, there would be two documents of about 450 pages to produce, and the time needed would depend on the human resources available in the Secretariat, including the International Computing Centre. The Office of Conference Services followed the procedure established by the General Assembly for the reproduction and distribution of documents, due regard being had to certain priorities. If the Austrian proposal was adopted, it would be necessary in 1972, the year of transition, to provide an addendum to the report on the composition of the Secretariat, covering July and August, in order to make the report comparable with those for earlier years.

33. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) supported the Polish-Ukrainian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29) on the question of giving preference in recruitment for posts subject to geographical distribution to qualified candidates of under-represented countries. He considered that, when any such posts were to be filled, an effort should first be made to ascertain whether qualified candidates were available in under-represented countries.

34. On the question of ensuring a better linguistic balance in the Secretariat, he said that his delegation, which had been a sponsor of resolution 2480 B (XXIII), was alive to the predicament of staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the official languages. It therefore felt that the Ghanaian-Japanese proposal had merit and should be considered favourably. He agreed with the representative of France that the existing situation in the Secretariat with regard to learning another language should not be disturbed. In that connexion, he welcomed the statement made by the representative of the Secretary-General.

35. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said he could announce that the representative of France, with whom he had had informal consultations, was not opposed in principle to the proposal submitted by the delegations of Ghana and Japan.

36. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said his delegation would support the proposals contained in documents A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26 to CRP.29.

37. Mr. AL-QANDI (Kuwait) supported the Ghanaian-Japanese proposal, which sought to safeguard the interests of staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the official languages.

38. Mr. NAITO (Japan) expressed his appreciation to the representative of the Secretary-General for his replies to questions that had been raised. He supported the proposals contained in documents A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.27 to CRP.29.

39. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII). There had been broad agreement that active measures should be taken to encourage staff members to acquire a knowledge of a second official language. The proposal that such encouragement should take the form of speedier promotion was reflected in the resolution. It would appear that the decision had been correct; there was no suggestion that the provisions of the resolution should be revised. The representative of the

Secretary-General had stated that certain exceptions to that measure could be granted in the case of staff members of particular value to the Organization. His delegation wished to point out, however, that it attached great importance to that resolution and, like the delegation of France, wanted it to be fully implemented.

40. He wondered whether there were really any vacancies in the Secretariat that could be filled only by candidates of over-represented countries. The representative of the Secretary-General had spoken of difficulties in finding qualified personnel such as economists and statisticians. Did that mean that in the case of other posts—where there was no shortage of suitable candidates—appointments were not being granted to nationals of over-represented countries?

41. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) said that, although his delegation had been one of the advocates of measures to ensure a better linguistic balance in the Secretariat, it had also recognized that staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages might thereby be placed at a disadvantage. His delegation had accordingly proposed the inclusion in General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) of an appropriate clause to safeguard such candidates, and for this same reason it fully supported the proposal in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26, although it would have preferred stronger safeguards.

42. His delegation also fully supported the proposals made by Poland and the Ukrainian SSR (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29) and by Norway (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.28).

43. He sympathized with the motives that had prompted the Austrian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.27), but wondered whether it might not complicate the task of the Secretariat by requiring production of the addendum to which the representative of the Secretary-General had referred.

44. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that he had been somewhat surprised to hear the representative of the Secretary-General state that certain posts had to be filled by candidates from over-represented countries. He felt that, no matter how technical the post, suitably qualified candidates could be found in under-represented countries. In that connexion, his delegation was not clear as to the criteria used for judging whether a candidate was qualified.

45. While his delegation endorsed the principle that a proper linguistic balance should be preserved in the Secretariat, it shared the concern of representatives of countries whose languages were not among the working languages. It would therefore support the proposal made by Ghana and Japan, because it agreed with the Iranian delegation that the text was relatively innocuous.

46. The proposal contained in documents A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.27 to CRP.29 would also have the support of his delegation.

47. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that his delegation fully supported all four proposals before the Committee. While he agreed with the representative of India that Indonesia was in theory an over-represented country, he wished to point out that the level of posts must also be



considered. Over the past few years only one senior post, at the D-1 level, had been occupied by an Indonesia national. When an over-all view was taken of the level of posts, his country could hardly be regarded as over-represented, and it was certainly not in the fortunate position of countries whose nationals figured among the frequent promotions at the senior level.

48. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel), replying to the representative of the USSR, said that, of 81 staff members from over-represented countries, 27 were from developing countries and seven from Eastern Europe. A single post, because of its special political character, was occupied by a staff member on temporary secondment from the Government of a Member State. A written reply to the other questions put by the representative of the USSR would be submitted at a later date.

49. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) proposed a number of amendments<sup>2</sup> to the text contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29. The first was that after the words "set out in" in the second sentence, the words "Article 101 of the Charter and" should be inserted. The reason for that addition had already been well stated by the representative of the United Kingdom. Secondly, his delegation wished to delete any reference to a special report by the Secretary-General, who could simply include the information that was sought in his annual report on the composition of the Secretariat. Thirdly, the words "to serve as a means of expediting" in the third sentence, should be replaced by the words "bearing in mind the decisions of the General Assembly and discussions in the Fifth Committee in recent years regarding".

50. Finally, he wished to suggest that, in the preparation of the recruitment plan, account should be taken of the views expressed in the Committee on that question.

51. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the first three amendments submitted by the representative of the United States to the proposal submitted by his delegation and that of Poland would probably be acceptable; the fourth United States amendment created difficulties. The original wording of the proposal was based on General Assembly resolution 2539 (XXIV) and, in any case, the proposal had already met with much support. There was no reason why the Committee should now take a step backwards.

52. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said, with regard to the proposal of Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, that he

<sup>2</sup> The text of the amendments was subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.30.

believed he could speak for the developing countries in requesting the insertion at the end of the second sentence, after the words "under-represented", of the words "and developing". With that addition, his delegation would be able to support the proposal.

53. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said he failed to see the need for adoption of the Colombian amendment. The words "under-represented" naturally applied to both developed and developing countries, depending on the circumstances.

54. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion on the proposal of Poland and the Ukrainian SSR should be deferred and a decision taken on the remaining proposals.

*The Norwegian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.28) was adopted.*

55. Mr. MARRON (Spain) wondered whether, assuming that the Austrian proposal was adopted, it would create too much difficulty for the Secretariat if the figures for the previous 10 years were adjusted to take account of the new reporting period, namely, from 1 July to 30 June. They would then be comparable with the figures for the coming year.

56. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel) said that it would be impossible to adjust all the figures for the previous 10 years; the new reporting period could be applied only to the figures for future years.

*The Austrian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.27) was adopted.*

*The Ghanaian-Japanese proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26), as orally amended, was adopted.*

57. Mr. GUPTA (India) appealed to the Polish and Ukrainian delegations to accept the third amendment proposed by the United States, which had certain advantages. In addition to departing little from the meaning of the existing text, it took account of all relevant decisions and not only of the General Assembly resolutions referred to earlier in the text.

58. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) said that the words "concerned at the lack of progress" in the Polish-Ukrainian text did not reflect the view of his delegation, which felt that some progress had been made. Without wishing to submit a formal amendment, his delegation felt unable to support the text as it stood.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PARTS C, G AND H OF DRAFT RESOLUTION II SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8504/ADD.1 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 37\* (A/8408/ADD.12, A/C.5/1403)**

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Secretary-General's statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/1403) of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee (A/8504/Add.1, para. 41, draft resolution II, parts C, G and H). The Secretary-General estimated that the financial implications would amount to \$47,100, as follows: part C of draft resolution II would require an appropriation of \$11,300 under section 17, chapter VI; part G would require appropriations of \$17,500 under section 3, chapter III, and \$14,600 under section 10, chapter III; and part H would require an appropriation of \$3,700 under section 17, chapter VI. Against that total of \$47,100, however, an amount of \$11,400 should be offset as having already been included in the initial estimates. Thus, the additional requirements amounted to \$35,700.

2. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.12). He drew attention to paragraph 3, in which the Advisory Committee agreed that the specific authority of the General Assembly would be required before representatives of liberation movements and anti-apartheid organizations were invited to Headquarters. In paragraph 4 the Advisory Committee recommended that part of the translation costs should be met from existing resources, with the result that the cost of implementing part G of draft resolution II might be reduced from \$32,100 to \$29,600. He also pointed out that in paragraph 5, the attention of the Fifth Committee was drawn to the fact that paragraph 1 of part G of the draft appeared to prejudice to some extent the discussion in the Fifth Committee on United Nations information policies and activities.

3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that its adoption of parts C, G and H of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee would involve an additional appropriation of \$33,200, comprising \$15,000 under section 3, chapter III, \$14,600 under section 10, chapter III, and \$3,600 under section 17,

chapter VI. Moreover, the General Assembly should be advised regarding the need for the specific authority referred to in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report; the Fifth Committee might wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to that paragraph.

*It was so decided.*

4. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) said that, if the proposed appropriations had been put to the vote, his delegation would have voted against them, since they were illegal.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I AND III SUBMITTED BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8528 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 33\* (A/C.5/1402)**

5. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Secretary-General's statement of the administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/1402) of draft resolutions I and III submitted by the First Committee (A/8528, para. 20). The Secretary-General estimated that an additional appropriation of \$70,000—\$5,000 under section 5 and \$65,000 under section 12—would be required if the General Assembly adopted the First Committee's draft resolutions.

6. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that he would give the views of the Advisory Committee orally, since the relevant documents had only very recently been placed before that Committee.

7. In the case of draft resolution III, the Secretary-General had requested no additional appropriation; the Advisory Committee therefore wished to state that it concurred with the Secretary-General's statement. As to draft resolution I, the Advisory Committee noted that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had in a sense prejudged the decision of the Fifth Committee by requesting the Secretary-General to allocate the specific sum of \$70,000 to the Outer Space Affairs Division. The Advisory Committee acknowledged that the action had been taken with the best of intentions; it did not therefore wish to make an issue of it. However, the Advisory Committee wished to caution against any widespread extension of that practice, which could undermine well-established budgetary procedures. After examining the request, the Advisory Committee believed that funds amounting to \$5,000 could be found from the provision for travel of staff under section 5. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee believed that an

\* The policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa:

(a) Report of the Special Committee on Apartheid;  
(b) Reports of the Secretary-General.

\* International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

additional appropriation of \$65,000 under section 12 would suffice to fulfil the terms of the draft resolution.

8. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that, while not wishing to submit a formal proposal, his delegation considered that an additional appropriation for the full amount of \$70,000 was not excessive. He suggested that the Fifth Committee should take note of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

9. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) suggested that the Fifth Committee might not only approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation but also concur in its observation that action such as that taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in prejudging the decision of the Fifth Committee should be discouraged. He felt that the words "takes note" were not strong enough; he would prefer the word "concurs".

10. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it approve draft resolution I submitted by the First Committee, an additional appropriation of \$65,000 under section 12 would be required for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 12, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383, A/C.5/1384, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 14, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25, E/5038)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)\* (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24)*

11. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), commenting on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, said his delegation agreed that all was not well with the Office of Public Information not only in its programmes and activities but also in connexion with its personnel and organizational structure. The improvement in efficiency demanded of it by Governments over the past few years was still far from a reality.

12. The draft resolution might go some way towards "diagnosing the sickness" of the Office of Public Information. But since the existing text presented some problems, his delegation wished to offer some suggestions, which he hoped the sponsors might take into account in order to secure wider support for their text. First, prompted by its deep interest in the need for a well-informed public opinion, and in keeping with its participation in the preparation of many past resolutions in the information field, his delegation attached cardinal importance to General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969, and wished to see it referred to specifically, together with resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, both in the second preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 2. A failure to reaffirm the validity of the mandate which resolution 2567 (XXIV) gave to the Secretary-General for the adoption of measures in the field of economic and social information might give the impression that the Assembly had weakened in its resolve to see public opinion mobilized in support of development.

13. He considered further that the words "and decides to consider all aspects of their implementation at the twenty-seventh session" should be inserted at the end of paragraph 4 in order to bring it into line with paragraphs 3 and 5 in which reference was already made to the twenty-seventh session.

14. With regard to paragraph 9, his delegation would have preferred that the Secretary-General should be given discretion to determine which units of the Secretariat should serve as focal points for co-ordinated and integrated programmes in the economic and social fields.

15. His delegation found difficulty in accepting paragraph 10, which would request the Secretary-General to take immediate steps to integrate the Centre for Economic and Social Information within the Office of Public Information. His delegation would prefer to see the Centre excluded from any future reorganization, since it believed that "integration" was inconsistent with the administrative arrangements made by the Secretary-General. In his bulletin ST/SGB/131/Amend.26 of 19 February 1971 regarding the organization of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, the Secretary-General had stated that the Centre, *inter alia*, acted as an information service for the departments and agencies of the United Nations concerned with economic and social development and as a co-ordinating service for the public information activities of the United Nations system in support of economic and social development; assisted Governments in mobilizing public opinion in support of the Second United Nations Development Decade; maintained the necessary liaison in that field with national commissions, non-governmental organizations and other bodies at the international, regional and national levels; and produced, organized and disseminated developmental, economic and social information. Since all those important tasks had been assigned to the Centre, why should it not be given at least two years to prove itself? His delegation felt that administrative changes would be premature. The Committee should do nothing to contravene the purpose of resolution 2567 (XXIV), which entrusted the Centre with a particular task.

\* Resumed from the 1458th meeting.

16. Since it felt strongly that the Centre should retain its present semi-autonomous status, his delegation would prefer a rephrasing of paragraph 8 in either of the following ways:

“Takes note of the Secretary-General’s statement of 16 November 1971, and requests him to take immediate steps to reorganize the Office of Public Information with a view to enabling it to carry its mandate more effectively;”

“Takes note of the Secretary-General’s statement of 16 November 1971, particularly with respect to the Centre for Economic and Social Information.”

17. His delegation could accept paragraph 11 but would prefer to include an additional phrase on the desirability of avoiding undue diversion of UNDP funds from operational activities to information projects.

18. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), explaining the revised draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the revised text was an attempt to accommodate the views of delegations.

19. First, with reference to paragraph 7, the sponsors had carefully considered the suggestions made by the delegations of Colombia and Jordan (1456th meeting). With all due respect, however, they felt that the proposed wording did not add substantially to the present text, and requested that those two delegations should not press for the inclusion of their amendments. Moreover, the reference to the appointment of highly qualified international Professional staff might restrict the Secretary-General’s freedom to appoint qualified local staff.

20. With regard to the objections raised by the USSR delegation to the draft resolution (1458th meeting), the sponsors regretted that, in the absence of specific proposals, they did not quite know how to accommodate the USSR point of view.

21. Paragraph 6 had been rephrased to include a reference to the Consultative Panel on Public Information. In that connexion, he welcomed any reaction to the revised wording from the Canadian or any other delegation.

22. As a result of certain suggestions regarding the original paragraph 2, the sponsors had inserted the words “do not need to be revised, amended or enlarged”, which conformed to the findings of the Secretary-General as contained in his report A/C.5/1320/Rev.1. However, the sponsors considered that the last phrase “subject to such directives . . . from time to time” was of crucial importance and must not be deleted.

23. The new wording of paragraphs 3 and 4 was the outcome of protracted negotiations. In paragraph 3, approval was given to the Secretary-General’s proposals regarding the acquisition and replacement of equipment for 1972 (see A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1, annex I); consideration of the balance of his five-year programme would be deferred until the twenty-seventh session.

24. Paragraphs 4 and 5, which should be considered together, reflected a compromise resulting from intensive

negotiations. It was agreed that reference should be made to the General Assembly’s approval in principle of the proposal to establish a regional production bureau; all aspects of the implementation would be considered at the twenty-seventh session, since the actual details had not yet been fully explored.

25. In the new paragraph 9—former paragraph 7—the words “Office of Public Information” had been deleted.

26. Amendments to paragraph 10, which was among those which had caused the greatest difficulties, had been submitted in document A/C.5/L.1069. Regardless of the actual words used, the objectives underlying the phrasing had been: first, to achieve better management, better programming and efficient utilization of resources; second, to take the first step towards what it was hoped to achieve in the near future. In an attempt to assuage the fears of delegations, he wished to state categorically that the sponsors had no intention of dismantling the Centre for Economic and Social Information or of changing its mandate. Any doubts regarding the Centre’s ability to “push and promote” if it were integrated within the Office of Public Information were absolutely without foundation. That was quite clear from paragraph 2. In any case, the sponsors of the draft resolution had already pointed out that, if integrated within the Office of Public Information, the Centre would have access to more resources, since the Office had in the past undertaken information activities in economic and social fields which were really the province of the Centre. Integration would eliminate any duplication.

27. The statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General at the 1456th meeting of the Committee—after explaining the reasons which had led the Secretary-General to move the Centre to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs—indicated that, in view of the opinion expressed by certain delegations that the transfer was not entirely in accord with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 13 (I), he had subsequently decided to re-establish the Centre within the framework of the Office of Public Information. If the opinions then expressed had been sound enough to lead the Secretary-General to establish the Centre within the framework of the Office of Public Information, surely they were sound enough to cause it to be made an integral part of that Office. The existing arrangements gave the appearance of legality but, in fact, contravened the provisions of General Assembly resolution 13 (I). The essence of the Secretary-General’s statement was that he had moved the Centre to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs because of the importance he attached to information relating to economic and social affairs. Did that mean that he did not regard information on political matters such as decolonization, *apartheid* and racism, as equally important? Conversely, if the Office of Public Information was not considered competent to deal with information relating to economic and social affairs, could it be regarded as competent to deal with information relating to political affairs? The sponsors of the draft resolution could not accept the argument that they were trying to kill the Centre. Nevertheless, they had decided to offer an alternative wording for operative paragraph 10 which, although not fully acceptable to some of them, might meet the fears expressed by some delegations and at the same time make it clear that the objectives

being sought by the sponsors were not being dropped completely. The revised text would read as follows:

“Takes note of the Secretary-General’s statement of 16 November 1971 and requests him, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952, to take immediate steps to review the present administrative arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information and to reorganize the Office of Public Information with a view to enabling it to carry out its mandate effectively”.

28. Editorial changes could, of course, be made, but the sponsors of the revised draft resolution hoped that the text would be acceptable to the Committee and that the representatives of Canada, Denmark, India and the Netherlands would not press their amendments (A/C.5/L.1069) to a vote. The time had come to take a decision in the matter and his delegation was prepared to proceed to the vote immediately.

29. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) said that Sweden had joined the sponsors of the amendments contained in A/C.5/L.1069.

30. The changes made by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 to their original text had improved the draft considerably. He would comment later on the change to operative paragraph 10 just proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

31. The amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 proposed in document A/C.5/L.1069 were not controversial. Their purpose was, first, to endorse a significant decision taken by the General Assembly and, second, to endorse a decision taken by the Secretary-General. The proposed sixth preambular paragraph of the amendments drew attention to part E of the International Development Strategy adopted by General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), which emphasized the need to mobilize public opinion in developing and developed countries in support of the objectives and policies of the Second Development Decade. Part E derived from resolution 2567 (XXIV), which indicated how the United Nations, in close collaboration with national Governments and specialized agencies, should endeavour to mobilize public opinion in developing and, particularly, in developed countries. It seemed necessary that those two resolutions which, apart from resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI), were the only two General Assembly resolutions which dealt in their entirety with the subject of public information, should be mentioned in a comprehensive resolution on information activities.

32. The purpose of the new paragraph 8 and 9 proposed in the amendments was to endorse internal administrative arrangements within the Secretariat made by the Secretary-General in accordance with his responsibilities under the Charter. It could not be concluded from the arguments adduced during the debate on the subject in the Committee that there were shortcomings in the formulation and execution of information programmes and activities, particularly in so far as they related to economic and social affairs, and that the Centre for Economic and Social

Information should therefore, as suggested in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, be integrated with the Office of Public Information. On the contrary, in so far as economic and social matters were concerned, there seemed little doubt that, as the Secretary-General had said, in a field which covered the whole span of development and in which effective information depended less on the reporting of United Nations meetings than on explaining issues, the Centre must have the full co-operation of the substantive departments which set their targets and knew their priorities. It should also be noted in that connexion that at a recent meeting of the Second Committee (1418th meeting), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had said that UNCTAD’s arrangements with the Centre for Economic and Social Information were functioning efficiently, that UNCTAD received help from the Centre’s services and that UNCTAD formed part of the interdepartmental committee on the Centre for Economic and Social Information. It was no coincidence that, after hearing the statement of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the delegations of Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Nicaragua had decided to sponsor the draft resolution on review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade submitted to the Second Committee by the delegations of Colombia, the Philippines and Uruguay (A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.2).<sup>1</sup> The outcome of the discussion on that draft resolution was awaited with interest. In the absence of clear evidence of shortcomings in the information service, the Fifth Committee should hesitate to demolish a structure which, in the short period of its existence, had proved effective and satisfactory to those concerned.

33. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had said that the purpose of paragraph 10, as revised, of the 14-Power draft resolution, was to ensure better management, better programming and better use of resources. He had also said that the sponsors of the draft did not want to kill the Centre for Economic and Social Information or to amend its mandate. It should be noted, however, that the amendments proposed in document A/C.5/L.1069 related not only to the Centre for Economic and Social Information but to the internal administrative arrangements made by the Secretary-General and to the interdepartmental committee in which UNCTAD, UNIDO and the Office of Public Information were co-ordinating their activities. Such an interdepartmental committee should exist. There was, of course, room for better co-ordination and efficiency and that was precisely the purpose of the new paragraph 9 in the amendments. The sponsors of the amendments would have to consult together before they could decide whether, in view of the oral amendments to paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, they could withdraw their own proposals. It did seem, however, that the 14-Power draft should contain a reference to General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) as well as to its resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI).

34. Mr. FARAH (Somalia) said that in reviewing and reappraising United Nations information policies and acti-

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 45, document A/8559, para. 9.

vities, the General Assembly had embarked on a task whose implications exceeded the budgetary and organizational aspects of the question. That fact was established in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1) which had been prepared to help the General Assembly to reach a policy decision on a question posed by the Advisory Committee: namely, what part of the Organization's limited resources should be devoted to its essential activities and what part should be spent on telling the world about its action (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, para. 4).

35. In the opinion of his delegation, the time had come for the United Nations to emphasize and extend the role of information services in the achievement of the Organization's aims and objectives. The world was one in which public opinion was increasingly shaped by the mass communications media and in which the United Nations message could only be spread by more sophisticated information programmes than those offered at present. Both conditions in the world and internal changes within the Organization demanded that a new emphasis be placed on the dissemination of United Nations information. Of the changes which had taken place since the Office of Public Information had been established in 1946, two were of particular importance: the active role the United Nations had assumed in attempting to shape world opinion on such questions as decolonization, racial discrimination and human rights, and the recognition that with respect to those issues hope for change could not be placed exclusively in the authority of the United Nations, which was severely limited by the conflicts of power and ideology. Hope must therefore be placed increasingly in educating a new generation to accept the principles of the Charter as a valid basis for international relations and for justice on the national level. Because it was acutely aware of those changes, his delegation welcomed the statements made in paragraph 52 (b) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1) and noted with satisfaction that the Office of Public Information was to identify itself with universally approved causes and movements in such areas as economic and social development, human rights, decolonization, the elimination of racial discrimination and the human environment. There seemed, however, to be a contradiction between that statement and the one in paragraph 42 of the report that United Nations information programmes must continue to be fashioned and articulated essentially as programmes aimed at explanation and clarification, not exhortation. It would be extremely difficult for the Office of Public Information to follow directives which were mutually exclusive. Perhaps the Secretary-General's intention was that Member States should take decisions on those questions.

36. In his statement at the 1449th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12), the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had asked what Member States expected of the Office of Public Information, how far they wanted it to go in serving their collective purpose and whether the collective purpose should be merely to record and report or to push and promote. The Somali delegation's answer to that question was that the Office of Public Information must push and promote those causes and movements which had been universally approved. The words "that have been universally approved" were a sufficient safeguard against the danger that the Office might be used to serve the

propaganda needs of any State or groups of States. The United Nations should not allow the unpleasant connotations of the word "propaganda" to deflect it from the task of disseminating the principles of the Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights and of translating them into reality.

37. As the Assistant Secretary-General had said, every major or subsidiary organ of the United Nations called on the services of the Office of Public Information, and the department was therefore faced with the difficulty of determining priorities. In particular, the Third, Fourth and Special Political Committees had adopted resolutions calling for a positive role by the Office of Public Information in promoting human rights, promoting the need for economic and social development and fighting racism and colonialism. The Office of Public Information had already begun to respond to the needs of those Committees and the periodical *Objective: Justice* and the recently inaugurated pamphlet series on southern Africa were valuable initiatives for which it must be commended. It was clear, however, that more must be done if the legitimate information needs of United Nations bodies were to be met.

38. The Office of Public Information was also faced with the difficulty of trying to toe the narrow line between telling people what to think about and telling people what to think. That difficulty, coupled with its limited resources, were factors underlying the controversy over the relationship between the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information. The controversy would continue until the basic condition which caused it had been removed. There was the possibility that more and more committees would be dissatisfied with the gap between their needs and Office of Public Information facilities to cater to them and with the fact that the Office's traditional stance prevented it from assuming the positive role they envisaged for it. That could well result in an attempt to set up action-oriented special units which would concentrate exclusively on particular programmes. Such a proliferation of information units would obviously be more expensive than an expansion of the centralized service, even if they were to some extent supported by voluntary contributions from Member States. It would also be difficult to impose any over-all policy on a number of independent or semi-independent units.

39. In the light of the many questions raised in the Secretary-General's report, his delegation wished to suggest that the following principles be kept in mind in reappraising United Nations information policies and practices. First, that the United Nations information service played a vital role in the achievement of United Nations objectives and must be organized and, if necessary, expanded to reflect the importance of that role. Second, that, since many of the United Nations causes and movements which had been universally approved depended on active promotional campaigns for their success, the Office of Public Information had the right and the duty to promote those causes actively. Third, that the information services of the United Nations should remain centralized under the Office of Public Information but that there should be increased specialization within the departments to deal adequately with the needs of the various United Nations bodies and committees which the Office was established to service.

40. In so far as the first point was concerned, it seemed essential that the Office of Public Information should be able to draw upon high-calibre staff at all levels. The interpretation and reporting of proceedings of United Nations committees was work of a highly sensitive nature which demanded personnel with a high degree of objectivity, substantive knowledge and professional training and, above all, a dedication to the aims and purposes of the Organization. The Office of Public Information must be provided with the means to maintain an adequate number of such personnel. In that context, his delegation did not agree that United Nations information centres could form part of the offices of UNDP resident representatives. Whatever economic benefits were to be gained from such a merger would be more than offset by the self-defeating restraint placed on United Nations information activities. Clearly UNDP resident representatives could not be expected to concern themselves with disseminating public information on such questions as colonization and the elimination of racism, which formed part of the responsibility of the Office of Public Information. United Nations information centres must therefore remain under the control of the Office of Public Information and its Professionals must be in charge of them.

41. With regard to the third point, he emphasized that there should be a much closer and more continuous liaison than existed at present between the Office of Public Information and the organs it served. It had been suggested, for instance, that the Secretary-General should introduce an arrangement whereby the Office of Public Information would be kept informed of the information needs of the three committees dealing with southern Africa and that there should be regular consultations between senior representatives of the Office of Public Information and the chairmen of the three committees. There was also a need for over-all policy direction where a great variety of United Nations programmes were dealt with, in so far as information was concerned, by a single office. In that connexion, his delegation suggested that the terms of reference of the Consultative Panel on Public Information should be changed so that it could operate on a continuous basis as a consultative body on over-all policy. It also suggested that its membership be enlarged or changed to reflect the current regional balance of the membership of the United Nations.

42. His delegation had no objection in principle to any of the paragraphs of the draft resolution under consideration. It would, however, have preferred to see more emphasis placed on the larger questions of direction and organization than on questions of administrative detail. It therefore suggested that the following additions would greatly strengthen the draft resolution. First, the draft should mention the great need to establish channels of communication between the Office of Public Information and those organs of the United Nations it had been established to serve. Second, it should call for the immediate reactivation of the Secretary-General's Consultative Panel on Public Information, propose that the Panel be reconstituted to reflect the changed composition of the United Nations and that it should meet at regular intervals. Third, it should note the need for the Office of Public Information to play a positive role in the promotion of those causes that had been universally approved by the United Nations. Fourth, it

should invite the Secretary-General to ascertain the needs of those bodies which had undertaken to support universally approved causes and which depended on the United Nations information services for the successful promotion of those causes. It should also express the wish that the Secretary-General's findings on that subject be reflected in his next report to the General Assembly so that their financial implications could be considered. The question of information must be dealt with with the consideration it deserved, not haphazardly or piecemeal.

43. At its current session, the General Assembly should in essence reaffirm both the structure and the mandate of the Office of Public Information as laid down by resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952. It should also request the Secretary-General in specific terms fully to implement paragraph 1 of the basic principles approved by resolution 595 (VI), namely, central control and active guidance by United Nations organs.

44. He would be happy to consult with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 in the hope that they would be able to include some of his suggestions in their text. If they could, he would have no hesitation in becoming a sponsor of the draft.

45. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia), referring to the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, said that, given the diversity of activities in the field of information, it would be difficult to maintain uniformity in the implementation of information policies and guidelines. In paragraph 243 of his report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), for example, the Secretary-General stated that the Centre for Economic and Social Information had to function on a somewhat different basis from that on which the Office of Public Information normally functioned in the light both of its specific and its co-ordinating responsibilities. His delegation would therefore prefer to stress the need for co-ordinating information policies and guidelines rather than establishing uniformity in their implementation.

46. The purpose of operative paragraph 2 seemed to be to decide what the General Assembly had already decided in resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI). He suggested, therefore, that in that paragraph the word "Decides" should be replaced by the word "Affirms". Also, he persisted in thinking that the last phrase of the paragraph should be deleted because it went without saying that if the General Assembly were to decide later to issue new directives, it would be mandatory upon the Office of Public Information to implement them.

47. To a certain extent, paragraph 7 was consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV). However, the mobilization of public opinion was a task for experts in information not for Professional staff qualified in economic, social or political activities. His delegation firmly believed that the implementation of United Nations information programmes in the field required the full-time attention and efforts of the expert in charge of the information centres. It therefore supported the amendment submitted by the delegation of Colombia to that paragraph (1456th meeting).



48. Referring to paragraph 8, he said that it would be difficult for the Secretary-General to discover shortcomings. His findings would have to be based on the reports of the various departments and those reports had already been incorporated in the Secretary-General's report. It was questionable, therefore, that the efforts called for in the paragraph would result in anything new and the paragraph could therefore be deleted.

49. Turning to paragraph 10, he said that he had already expressed his delegation's concern at the proposal to integrate the Centre for Economic and Social Information within the Office of Public Information. The Centre's responsibilities were stated in paragraph 247 of the Secretary-General's report, and in his statement to the Committee, at the 1456th meeting, the Secretary-General had said that the Secretariat's efforts should be redoubled in line with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV). The financial difficulties facing the Office of Public Information were well known. The Centre was perhaps in a favourable position because it enjoyed support from such countries as the Netherlands, the Nordic States, Canada and others, but his delegation was concerned that if it was integrated with the Office of Public Information, the Centre's finances would be diluted and its activities, which were so important for the developing countries, restricted. The role of the United Nations in the field of information should be strengthened and expanded and that could be done by strengthening the individual information centres. It was doubtful, however, that any useful results would be obtained by integrating the Office of Public Information with the Centre for Economic and Social Information or by modifying the status of the Centre. Originally, his delegation had been in favour of the deletion of paragraph 10. After hearing the comments of the representatives of the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Netherlands, however, it would defer a final decision in the matter until a later stage.

50. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that Tunisia wished to pay a tribute to the Office of Public Information, and to express its agreement with speakers who had expressed doubts about the Fifth Committee's competence to take decisions on the Secretary-General's report on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities. Information work in the United Nations had two distinct aspects: one related to the administrative service and its functioning and the continuity of the action it took, and the other related to general policy governing information about the United Nations. The first aspect was the responsibility of the Secretary-General, and the second that of Member States. Information policy and activities was a difficult subject to discuss. Many members of the Fifth Committee were not familiar with the detailed functioning of the Office of Public Information. Moreover, there were differences in approach: some believed that the emphasis should be, for example, on anti-colonialism or *apartheid*, while others thought it should be on human rights and economic and social development. In a sense it was both premature and too late to take a decision on the problem. It was too late in the sense that the United Nations had now arrived at a historic crossroad, marked both by the departure of the Secretary-General and the important change in political affairs represented by China's entry into the United Nations. The Committee should guard against

transforming itself into a machine for producing resolutions and amendments; it should take decisions in the light of current political developments, if it was to progress. He believed that there should be a detailed debate on information activities and on the political choices involved before any decision was taken.

51. With respect to the reactivation of the Consultative Panel on Public Information, he said that possibly senior officials in the Office of Public Information could become members of the Panel, so that they could give technical views on information questions. Any decisions on whether or not a new committee was needed would be premature. He believed the information problem should be left over for another year. Delegations would then have time to study the problem and sound decisions could be taken at the twenty-seventh session, by which time many changes might have taken place. Some delegations had not had the time to study the Secretary-General's report carefully. The *status quo* should be preserved during 1972, and there should be a general policy debate at the twenty-seventh session, to which the new Secretary-General could contribute. That would provide the basis for a sound decision.

52. More money spent on information activities did not necessarily produce better results nor prove effective, for instance, in preventing the violation of human rights. That was not the fault of the Office of Public Information; it was merely that to spend more money was not the only solution. It was more important to seek greater effectiveness and to study the problem carefully before taking any decision.

53. Mr. BROWN (Australia) expressed his appreciation of the effort made by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 to arrive at a text that would take account of the broad range of views and interests expressed in the Fifth Committee's debate. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had made clear their good faith, in stating that the text was intended to be the basis for near unanimity in the Committee. In view of the nature of United Nations information policies and activities, it was desirable that they should be based on the broad support of all groupings in the Organization.

54. The new wording added to operative paragraph 2, "do not need to be revised, amended or enlarged", was useful and more in line with the language of the Secretary-General in his report. With respect to the mandate of the Office of Public Information, he stressed that although various United Nations bodies might make decisions that had repercussions on the activities of the Office or call for more activities in certain fields, no changes should be made except after careful reflection in the light of General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI).

55. With respect to paragraph 3, he expressed appreciation of the United Republic of Tanzania's effort to seek a middle ground. Australia had had doubts about the desirability of the full five-year programme of acquisition and replacement of equipment, but believed that if equipment had to be replaced because it was obsolete or unsatisfactory, there was no point in replacing it with newer equipment that was also obsolete. On the other hand, expenditure must be geared to the financial circum-

stances of the United Nations. Australia could support the proposal to approve the plan for 1972 and leave the five-year programme for future consideration. That would enable his delegation to refer the question to the experts concerned with the problem in the Australian Government and would make it possible for the Committee to take into account the financial situation at the twenty-seventh session.

56. He could accept paragraph 4, and he appreciated the statement by the United Republic of Tanzania on paragraph 5. His delegation had had doubts as to the wisdom of proceeding in 1972 with the proposal for a regional production bureau. There was nothing wrong with the suggestion, and he could approve the principle that such production bureaux were desirable without making any commitment for 1972.

57. He found the present wording of paragraph 6 acceptable. However, some delegations might wish the Secretary-General both to review the composition of the Consultative Panel on Public Information and to convene a meeting before the twenty-seventh session in order to obtain the Consultative Panel's views on information policies. To reassure those delegations, he suggested that wording should be added at the end of paragraph 6, requesting the Secretary-General to convene the Panel before the twenty-seventh session to advise him on information policies and activities of the United Nations. He pointed out that the wording would not ask the Secretary-General to put any specific subject before the Panel, though he assumed that the matters referred to would include subjects to be taken up at the twenty-seventh session. He hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would be able to accept his oral amendment, and that the Canadian and the Soviet delegations would feel that it sufficiently covered the points they had made to enable them to withdraw their proposals.

58. With respect to the controversial question of the status of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, he noted the revised wording of paragraph 10. Before commenting on the text, he wished to hear the reactions of the sponsors of the draft resolution to the amendments proposed in document A/C.5/L.1069.

59. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the revised version of the draft resolution under consideration (A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1) went far towards reconciling the divergent views expressed in the debate. The first proposal on the subject had been made by the Canadian delegation at the 1449th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11); it had proposed that two specific recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, paras. 215-230, and Add.1, annex I) should be referred to the Consultative Panel, so that it could advise him on those recommendations. If the sponsors of the draft resolution could accept the minor additional wording proposed verbally by the Australian representative, Canada could withdraw its initial proposal.

60. Canada was one of the sponsors of the amendments proposed in document A/C.5/L.1069. The Philippines had now joined the sponsors, who accordingly numbered six.

They were interested in the proposal by the United Republic of Tanzania for a new wording for paragraph 10, but would like an opportunity to study the language suggested.

61. He agreed with the Indonesian representative that in the last preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, the reference should be to co-ordination rather than uniformity. The amendments proposed new wording for that paragraph and accordingly, in view of the Indonesian representative's interest in the arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information, he invited that representative to join the authors of the amendments in studying the new language for paragraph 10 proposed by the United Republic of Tanzania.

62. He had found the statements by Somalia and Tunisia challenging and stimulating, but at that late stage in the debate it was not easy to relate them to the proposals now before the Committee.

63. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that the basis for the operations of the Office of Public Information had been laid down by its first executive head, the noted Chilean, Benjamin Cohen. Since then it had had many chiefs, but they had not succeeded in improving the Office of Public Information. The basic weakness was that the department had been in the charge of political appointees instead of Professionals. That was a luxury that the United Nations could not permit itself. Today the Office of Public Information still seemed to lack a real sense of the nature of public relations and what was meant by "promotion". No doubt the new Secretary-General would have his own views on Office of Public Information problems.

64. The Administrative Management Service had proposed that United Nations information centres might become part of the offices of the resident representatives of UNDP. Unfortunately, the results achieved by the information centres were not satisfactory; he had heard adverse comments from journalists on the co-operation they obtained from the centres. Possibly frank criticism might lead to improvements. He understood that the comments of the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information on the matter had not been very satisfactory.

65. Despite the shortcomings of the Office of Public Information, every effort should be made to maintain its unity. Accordingly, the Centre for Economic and Social Information should be an integral part of the Office. He understood from a senior Secretariat official that in fact the Centre was to be integrated with the Office. It was most important to make better use of the existing staff and of the resources available, and to avoid proliferation of units so as to eliminate costly duplication of work. It must always be remembered that the United Nations budget had a ceiling. Equipment essential to the effective functioning of the Office must be bought, but expenditure must depend, as the Canadian representative had said, on the existing financial situation. It would be simpler to operate economically if all information work were carried out by the Office. Thus limited funds, instead of being wasted on duplication, could be used for urgent development needs.

66. With reference to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, he said that although his delegation might have preferred an even more detailed and forceful resolution, he was prepared to vote for the revised text as amended by various members of the Fifth Committee. He hoped it

would have the effect of launching the Office of Public Information on a new course.

*The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1462nd meeting)

*First reading (continued)\* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

**SECTION 15. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (A/8406 AND CORR.1  
AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1362)**

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3), the Secretary-General had requested \$11,880,900 in appropriations under section 15. In its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended that that amount should be reduced by \$240,500 to \$11,640,400. In document A/C.5/1362, the Secretary-General had given detailed information on the appropriations needed for the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre, which had been included in that figure.

2. Mr. PÉREZ GUERERRO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that 1972 would be a particularly important year for UNCTAD and that the latter had concentrated on preparations for the third Conference on Trade and Development. Although UNCTAD was continuing to develop and to assume new responsibilities, it seemed, nevertheless, to have emerged from its formative phase—a development reflected in the size of the appropriations required under section 15. The same was not true of the International Trade Centre, which was still at the initial stage of its formation; that explained the large increase in appropriations requested under chapter XII of that section.

3. UNCTAD had tried in 1971 to act upon the recommendations made by the Administrative Management Service following its 1970 survey, and it intended to make further adjustments in 1972. It had, in particular, tried to absorb an increased workload within the limits of its available resources and was making considerable efforts to reduce the volume of its documentation. In that connexion, and bearing in mind the fact that some documents prepared for the second session were still valid, it was seeking to reduce documentation relating to the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development by half.

4. He had proposed that six Professional and eight General Service posts should be added to the UNCTAD staff in

1972; that would have increased the establishment from 297 to 311. Although the Advisory Committee had not agreed to the full increase, the UNCTAD secretariat hoped to absorb its increased workload even if some sacrifices had to be made.

5. With regard to the International Trade Centre, the numerous Governments which benefited from its activities had asked it to carry out many tasks which it was not in a position to undertake with its available resources. Many Governments, those of the Scandinavian countries in particular, made generous voluntary contributions to the Centre, but, if it was to continue working effectively in the interest of the Organization as a whole, an attempt would have to be made to strike a better balance between those voluntary contributions and the appropriations in the regular budget of the United Nations.

6. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the appropriations under section 15 represented an 18 per cent increase over the appropriations for 1971. There were various reasons for the increase which were set forth in the Advisory Committee's first report, in particular, the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development, the increase in salaries, the proposed new posts and the increased cost of the International Trade Centre, half of which was charged to the United Nations. With regard to expenditures relative to the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development, he drew the attention of Fifth Committee members to paragraph 227 of the report where the Advisory Committee urged the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to investigate all possible ways of reducing the volume of in-session and post-session documentation. He noted with satisfaction the efforts mentioned by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in that connexion.

7. Recalling that one of the factors determining the 1971 establishment of UNCTAD had been the survey carried out by the Administrative Management Service and that in all its surveys the Service had sought to arrive at a recommended level of staff which would not only be sufficient to carry out the workload existing at the time but would allow some margin for the absorption of further tasks, the Advisory Committee had recommended that two of the proposed Professional posts and two of the General Service posts should be deleted. Some of the other reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee concerned travel of staff, printing costs and temporary assistance expenditure, as indicated in paragraphs 237, 239 and 240 of the report. The Advisory Committee had also recommended a reduction in expenditure on computers, for which an appropriation had already been requested under section 12.

8. In paragraphs 242 to 249 of its report, the Advisory Committee had analysed the cost estimates for the Inter-

\* Resumed from the 1461st meeting.

national Trade Centre, half of which were borne by the United Nations. As the estimates for the Centre had previously been examined by the GATT Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, which had recommended that they should be reduced, the Advisory Committee had accepted the GATT Committee's proposals, although its doubts about certain of them—in particular the proposal that the post of Deputy Director of the Centre should be reclassified from D-1 to D-2—remained.

9. With regard to the expenditure for certain supporting services, hitherto provided free by GATT and which would be charged to the Centre's budget as from 1972, the Advisory Committee did not object to the recommendation of the GATT Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, but suggested that, in that case, all posts whose incumbents worked exclusively on Centre business should be transferred from the GATT manning table to that for the Centre, as it had indicated in paragraph 247 of its report. The Advisory Committee intended to explore the question with the Director-General of GATT when it visited Geneva the following spring.

10. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 15 totalled \$240,500. A recapitulation of the reductions recommended in the various chapters of that section could be found in paragraph 250 of its report.

11. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, in view of the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, his delegation supported the appropriation requested under section 15. He drew attention to paragraph 15.68 of the budget estimates for 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3) which stated that, in the light of the agreement reached between GATT and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to increase the budget of the International Trade Centre so that the Centre could provide the necessary supporting services for implementing projects assigned by UNDP, no appropriation was being requested for 1972, and requested further information concerning the agreement reached between GATT and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. He asked what arrangements would be made in 1972 for the general expenses for technical assistance activities.

12. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that UNCTAD was one of the most important United Nations bodies for the developing countries. It operated with a smaller staff than other organizations and its recruitment policy was most prudent. He appealed to the Committee to show understanding.

13. Recalling that the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development was to be held in his country, he said that, after studying the cost estimates for that session in depth he felt that any reduction in appropriations would be unrealistic not only because future developments might give rise to unexpected costs but also because a number of supplementary expenses could already be foreseen, resulting from the fact that Chinese would probably be used in addition to the four official languages that had initially been provided for and that the session would probably be extended in accordance with the recommendation of the Trade and Development Board, which would undoubtedly

be approved by the Second Committee.<sup>1</sup> In view of the supplementary expenditure which could already be foreseen, his delegation felt that it would be wiser to increase the Conference's budget without delay rather than to reduce it. His Government had every intention of scrupulously fulfilling its role as host Government in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) whereby a Government which had issued an invitation for a session of a United Nations body to be held within its territory met all costs additional to those which would have arisen had the session taken place at the body's headquarters. His Government had therefore set aside a large sum in its budget for such costs.

14. His delegation considered that the International Trade Centre should not be separated from UNCTAD, to which it was so closely bound, and hoped that it would be possible to install the Centre in the new premises under construction at Geneva.

15. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) pointed out that, although half of the regular budget of the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre was financed by GATT and half by UNCTAD, that arrangement did not apply to allocations made to the Centre for the execution of extra-budgetary projects. Allocations to cover overhead costs relating to extra-budgetary projects derived from three sources: first, 10 per cent from voluntary national contributions for the execution of certain projects which were subject to the approval of the donor country; that had amounted to \$124,000, \$125,000 and \$140,000 for 1970, 1971 and 1972 respectively; secondly, some derived from a lump sum from UNCTAD which received, through the United Nations, allocations for overhead costs relating to projects executed by the Centre on behalf of UNDP/Technical Assistance. In 1970, the Centre had executed projects costing \$418,000 and had received no allocation for overhead costs; for 1971, it had allocated \$1 million for projects to be executed and \$50,000 for overhead costs and, for 1972, \$1,150,000 for projects to be executed and \$80,000 for overhead costs. Those \$80,000 had, however, been deleted from the United Nations budget estimates for 1972. Finally, allocations for overhead costs also derived from about 7 per cent—sometimes less—of appropriations for the execution of UNDP/Special Fund projects. The Centre had not executed any projects of that type in 1970; the projects scheduled for 1971 amounted to \$600,000, plus an allocation of \$35,000 for overhead costs, and, for 1972, to \$1,400,000, plus \$98,000 for overhead costs.

16. The Centre was responsible for the administration of 90 per cent of the appropriations for extra-budgetary projects and various United Nations departments for the remaining 10 per cent. The Centre's administrative costs, however, substantially exceeded its allocations with the result that the regular budget was required to make up the difference; that caused a corresponding reduction in the number of regular projects executed by the Centre.

17. The following was a breakdown of the Centre's estimate of \$318,000 to cover overhead costs relating to extra-budgetary projects in 1972: 10 per cent, or \$140,000,

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 2820 J (XXVI), adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1971.

from national voluntary contributions; a lump sum of \$80,000 for UNDP/Technical Assistance projects; and an allocation of \$98,000 for UNDP/Special Fund projects.

18. It had been decided, however, that the United Nations would not pay the Centre the \$80,000 allocated under UNDP/Technical Assistance; that altered the total figure of \$318,000 on which the Centre's budgetary estimates for 1972 were based. Moreover, to the best of his delegation's knowledge, no agreement had been reached between the competent departments of GATT and UNCTAD confirming a state of affairs whereby an agency which executed entire projects assigned to it by UNDP received none of the 1972 allocations for overhead costs.

19. Although his delegation was aware that UNDP's procedure would probably be changed in January 1972, it considered it indispensable that the Centre should in future receive that part of the allocations for overhead costs which were due to it and that, for 1972, the United Nations should pay the Centre the \$80,000, which constituted only a very small share of the total amount it would receive from UNDP, provisionally estimated at \$1,874,400. He hoped that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or the Controller would answer the questions raised by the representatives of Brazil and Chile before any vote on the matter was taken.

20. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that his delegation had been surprised to read, in paragraph 15.68 of the budget estimates for 1972, that an agreement had been reached between GATT and UNCTAD to increase the Centre's budget so that it could provide the necessary supporting services for implementing projects assigned by UNDP. Like the representative of Brazil, he wished to receive further clarification on the nature of the agreement reached.

21. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) gave some explanations regarding overhead costs relating to the International Trade Centre's technical co-operation activities. Until the end of 1971, in the case of Special Fund projects, a percentage of the total cost of each project had been provided for in the project budget for administrative and overhead costs; in the case of technical assistance projects, UNDP had paid the participating agencies an amount equal to 14 per cent of the total cost of the projects. Those payments had appeared as income in income section 2 of the United Nations budget estimates and the corresponding expenditure had been included in the regular budget of the United Nations. With regard to the Centre, the United Nations had received the entire amount paid by UNDP to cover the overhead costs involved in implementing the projects, whereas the corresponding expenditure had been divided equally between UNCTAD—in other words, the United Nations—and GATT. There had thus been an obvious imbalance. The appropriations for that expenditure under the regular budget for 1971 had amounted to about \$50,000 and had appeared under a special heading of the Centre's estimated expenditure in section 15. The appropriation of \$50,000 had been discontinued in 1972, owing to the prevailing uncertainty as to how UNDP would reimburse the participating agencies for their overhead costs. Since then, UNDP had agreed to standardize the procedure from reimbursing overhead costs relating to both Special Fund and technical assistance projects and, for 1972, intended to allocate a single percentage of 13 per cent for all operations. The intention

was that, in 1972, expenditure on overhead costs should be included under the various projects and that the amount set aside for the reimbursement of such costs should no longer appear in the income section of the United Nations regular budget. Such expenditure would be considered as effective expenditure of the Special Fund and all income deriving from its reimbursement would be turned over to UNCTAD for distribution. It would no longer be necessary to include expenditure and income in the United Nations budget, as the total amount would be provided for in the cost of the projects. The percentage to be allocated to the Centre would be almost 100 per cent, since the Centre would be responsible for most of the expenditure, but it was difficult to give an exact breakdown. The \$318,000 provided for in part III of the expenditure estimates of the Centre corresponded to the estimated cost of the projects that the Centre would be called upon to implement in 1972.

22. In response to a question posed by the representative of Chile with regard to extending the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development, he stated that revised estimates to cover an extension of the session would be submitted to the Fifth Committee as soon as the Second Committee had concluded its consideration of the matter (agenda item 41).

23. Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that he wished to add a few details to the explanations given by the Director of the Budget Division, in response to questions that had been quite properly raised by the representatives of Brazil and Kenya. The wording of paragraph 15.68 of section 15 of the budget estimates had given them the impression that a special agreement had been reached between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of GATT. It would have been more correct to say that, given the circumstances and, in particular, the current reorganization of UNDP, the Director-General of GATT and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had decided to increase the International Trade Centre's budget for 1972, so that it could provide the necessary supporting services for implementing UNDP projects and that, as a result, no appropriation was being requested for 1972 under the heading of overhead costs. The matter would, however, have to be re-examined the following year, when it was hoped that UNDP would assume a larger share of the overhead costs. It should be noted that only one fifth of the increased appropriations requested for the Centre was for new posts, a very reasonable proportion for a relatively new and expanding agency.

24. With regard to the question of new premises, which was a major item in the Centre's budget, the problem was not merely a budgetary one but an administrative one, too. The staff of the Centre was currently located in five different buildings, which considerably reduced its efficiency and productivity. The Chilean representative's suggestion that the Centre should move to part of the new building that had been constructed in Geneva undoubtedly deserved consideration but, although that would be the best solution, the present circumstances were not favourable. He had contacted the Secretary-General with regard to that eventuality and hoped that a satisfactory solution would soon be reached.

25. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that, since the Committee had discussed the question of consultants at length, his delegation had been very interested to read, in paragraph 235 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the budget estimates, that the estimate for consultants was \$18,000 less than the appropriation for 1971. As to paragraph 234 of the same report, which stated that, after experimenting with the separation of the External Relations Unit and the Division of Conference Affairs recommended by the Administrative Management Service, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had concluded that the previous arrangement had been preferable, he would be interested to know what considerations had motivated that decision.

26. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) supported the remarks made by the representative of Chile and stressed that an effort should be made to establish the International Trade Centre in the new wing of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Such a step would be both economical and practical in view of the very difficult current situation. If the Centre were established elsewhere, additional costs would be incurred and, from the functional point of view, it was essential to tighten the link between the Centre and UNCTAD.

27. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said he shared the view of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the representative of Italy regarding the premises of the International Trade Centre. He felt it was essential to consolidate the Centre's offices and those of UNCTAD in the same building, since the Centre's technical assistance activities could not be dissociated from the other activities of UNCTAD. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had said that he had not yet obtained authorization from the United Nations Office at Geneva to establish the Centre's offices in the new wing of the Palais des Nations. He thought that before considering the establishment of new offices there, such as those responsible for studying the problems of the environment, priority should be given to the offices of UNCTAD. He hoped that the directors of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would reach an agreement on that subject.

28. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) thanked the Director of the Budget Division and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for their explanations and asked for those two replies to be recorded in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

29. Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said he shared the concern expressed by many delegations regarding the premises of the International Trade Centre and that he would do everything possible to find a satisfactory solution to that problem in close co-operation with his colleagues at the United Nations Office at Geneva. It had not been possible to transfer the Centre to the new wing of the Palais des Nations, as he would have liked, but other possibilities were being considered, and it might be that they would be able to consolidate all the Centre's offices in one building, which would be an improvement on the present situation. Moreover, the Centre should be situated as close as possible to the offices of UNCTAD with which it maintained very close relations. He was currently seeking a solution which would take that into account.

30. As for the costs relating to consultants, the figure for which had been mentioned by the representative of the United States, he pointed out that the fact that UNCTAD could call upon consultants gave it a certain latitude which was essential in view of the fact that the number of permanent posts allocated to it was very limited. It was important to allow UNCTAD to retain the latitude it had by granting it the necessary appropriations to engage consultants.

31. In reply to the question put by the representative of the United States regarding the steps to be taken to consolidate some of the offices of the UNCTAD secretariat, in line with the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service mentioned in paragraph 234 of the Advisory Committee's first report, he said that it had been found impossible to separate the External Relations Unit and the Division of Conference Affairs, as had been recommended by the Administrative Management Service, and that it seemed preferable to return to the previous situation.

32. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said he understood that the Committee would have to consider revised estimates for UNCTAD after the Second Committee had taken a decision on the question of the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development. He had hoped that those estimates would take account not only of the extension of the Conference session but also of other factors such as the use of Chinese as a working language.

33. The CHAIRMAN said that when it adopted section 15 on a first reading, the Fifth Committee would take the Second Committee's decision into account regarding the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development.

34. Mr. PLIUSHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation maintained the position it had stated during the general discussion and was opposed to any increase in the staff of the Secretariat. It was convinced that a closer examination of the estimates presented by the Secretary-General would have enabled the Advisory Committee to recommend greater reductions and that a better distribution of the workload would have made it possible to improve the efficiency of the present staff of UNCTAD and to avoid the creation of 10 new posts. He could not, therefore, support the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning section 15.

35. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that according to the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 submitted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Director-General of GATT (ITC/AG/17<sup>2</sup>), the sum of \$150,000 had been transferred from the budget of GATT to that of the International Trade Centre, since it had been decided to charge to the Centre's budget as from 1972 the cost of certain supporting services which had previously been provided free by GATT. However, the posts to which those costs related had not been transferred from the manning table of GATT to that of the Centre. He wished to know if the posts shown on the manning table of GATT would be written into the Centre's budget and financed jointly by GATT and UNCTAD, or whether they

<sup>2</sup> See A/C.5/1362, distributed separately (offset).



would be charged entirely to the Centre. He did not see why the Centre should finance the costs of the GATT secretariat.

36. Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that since the International Trade Centre had originally been part of GATT before becoming a joint UNCTAD/GATT Centre, GATT had previously provided certain services to the Centre free of charge. Since the Centre was to be financed equally by GATT and UNCTAD, GATT felt that it alone should not cover the costs of those services, but should in future share the costs with UNCTAD. It would be logical, in that case, for the posts corresponding to those services to be transferred to the manning table of the Centre. That transfer would doubtless soon be made; the present situation was only temporary.

37. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for his explanation but wondered if the fact that the United Nations covered 50 per cent of the costs relating to posts which did not appear on its manning table did not constitute a violation of the Financial Regulations.

38. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) pointed out that when the International Trade Centre had been established it had been agreed that the cost of some of the services provided to the Centre by UNCTAD and GATT would continue to be charged to the budgets of UNCTAD and GATT. GATT had felt, however, that the load it had carried was becoming too heavy and that it could not continue to take full responsibility for the costs of the supporting services. The whole of those costs had therefore been transferred from the budget of GATT to that of the Centre and should be covered jointly by the United Nations and GATT. The Director-General of GATT had requested, however, that the posts in question should not be transferred to the manning table of the Centre, in order that he could continue to exercise control over the staff of those services. The question had not yet been settled and, indeed, there was an inconsistency between the financial situation and the administrative situation of those services.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)** (for the A/... and A/C.5/... documents, see the 1462nd meeting; A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1069 to L.1071, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 14, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25, E/5038)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 15. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (concluded) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1362)

1. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the Secretary-General had requested an amount of \$11,880,900 under section 15, or \$1,808,600 more than the 1971 appropriation. The increase was attributable in part to the fact that the third session of the Conference on Trade and Development was to be held in 1972, but it basically reflected the increase in staff costs and the cost of the proposed new posts. The number of authorized posts was 297 in 1971; with the addition of the 180 posts representing services provided to UNCTAD by other administrative units of the United Nations—administrative services, conference services and miscellaneous services—as well as the staff of the Joint UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre—91 posts, UNCTAD had a total staff of 568, not including consultants and temporary assistance. In the circumstances, and in view of the financial situation of the Organization, the number of posts requested might have been expected not to exceed the figure approved in 1971. Yet, a total of 14 new posts had been requested by UNCTAD. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had stated at the previous meeting that the staff was overburdened with work because of the preparation of the third session of the Conference. It would be recalled that the UNCTAD secretariat had already prepared two sessions with fewer staff than it had now.

2. He noted that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in paragraph 233 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, had drawn attention to the dangers of large-scale transfers of posts among offices within UNCTAD. He also shared the concern expressed by

the Advisory Committee in paragraph 240 of its report regarding temporary assistance expenditure by UNCTAD.

3. Notwithstanding the explanations given by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD at the previous meeting, his delegation could not support the proposal to charge the cost of GATT staff employed full-time on work for the International Trade Centre against the budget of the Centre. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD should estimate the cost of services provided free to the Centre by UNCTAD, including the cost of premises, in order to ensure a more equitable sharing of the Centre's costs between UNCTAD and GATT.

4. He requested a separate vote on chapters III, IV, and XII of section 15.

5. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) pointed out that about two thirds of the resources of UNCTAD were absorbed by the cost of documentation and conference services. That might be justified by the working methods of UNCTAD which, unlike the General Assembly, did not take decisions by majority vote, but always tried to reach a consensus. Nevertheless, as a developing country, Ghana would like to see UNCTAD adopt more rational working methods so as to be able to direct a larger proportion of its resources towards more productive ends. In that connexion, he had been pleased to learn that UNCTAD documentation could be reduced by at least 50 per cent by 1973.

6. Informal contacts between delegations represented in UNCTAD could be increased so as to save time during official meetings. Furthermore, those delegations serving on the Trade and Development Board and those aspiring to serve on it might consider opening permanent missions in Geneva; that would be another way of saving time and reducing costs.

7. He assured the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that his country would continue to participate actively in UNCTAD's work, to which it attached great importance.

8. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) thanked the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the explanations he had given at the previous meeting.

9. His delegation regretted that the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$240,500 in the amount requested by the Secretary-General for UNCTAD. He stressed that the voluntary contributions made by certain States members to the International Trade Centre should not be used as an excuse for limiting the Centre's regular budget. While his delegation was against the growing rise in administrative costs, it did favour a rational increase in staff and expenditure for organizations like UNCTAD and

UNIDO, which were endeavouring to meet the needs of the developing countries. Moreover, it was perfectly natural for UNCTAD expenditure to increase if UNCTAD was to attain the objectives established in the International Development Strategy adopted for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

10. The least developed countries saw in UNCTAD their best hope for extricating themselves from underdevelopment and therefore could not remain indifferent to any attempt to cut its budget, because that would also accentuate the gap between the developed and the developing countries.

11. The developing countries expected a great deal from the rational utilization of the technical assistance provided by the International Trade Centre and from the transfer of technology. In that connexion, his delegation hoped that the States members of UNCTAD would unreservedly support the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2726 (XXV), particularly by providing the necessary budgetary backing for the Group to discharge its functions efficiently. It expected a great deal from the programme of work established by the Group at its first session held at Geneva from 14 May to 21 June 1971.

12. The third session of UNCTAD was to be held at Santiago, Chile, in 1972. The Conference would have many important problems to resolve, particularly the problem of commodities which were priced on world markets in currencies which had undergone *de facto* devaluation. His delegation hoped that it would reach more definite agreement on the issues which had not been fully resolved.

13. With regard to the amount requested for the International Trade Centre shown in chapter XII, he said that his delegation attached the greatest importance to the role of the Centre in carrying out the expanded programme of technical assistance which was specifically directed towards helping the developing countries to promote their exports.

14. It also endorsed the proposal to transfer 17 GATT staff members employed full-time by the Centre from the GATT manning-table to that of the Centre, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 247 of its first report.

15. Lastly, his delegation considered that the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General should be approved and hoped that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee would have no adverse effects on the work of the Trade and Development Conference.

16. The CHAIRMAN, acting in accordance with the request of the Soviet delegation, called for a separate vote on chapters III, IV and XII of section 15.

17. He recalled that the Secretary-General had requested an amount of \$4,831,600 for chapter III and that the Advisory Committee had recommended that it should be reduced by \$76,000.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, paras. 232 and 235) for an*

*appropriation in the amount of \$4,755,600 for chapter III was approved in first reading by 60 votes to 9, with 1 abstention.*

18. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Secretary-General had requested an amount of \$1,171,000 for chapter IV and that the Advisory Committee had recommended that it should be reduced by \$9,000.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (ibid., para. 236) for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,162,000 for chapter IV was approved in first reading by 61 votes to 9, with 1 abstention.*

19. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Secretary-General had requested an amount of \$917,200 for chapter XII and that the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$25,500.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (ibid., para. 249) for an appropriation in the amount of \$891,700 for chapter XII was approved in first reading by 62 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.*

20. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the total appropriation for Section 15.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (ibid., para. 250) for an appropriation in the amount of \$11,640,400 under section 15 was approved in first reading by 62 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

*(The Committee then turned to consideration of agenda item 84 (see paras. 41 to 84 below). Later, the Committee resumed consideration of agenda item 76.)*

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)\* (A/8404/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/L.1070, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1)*

21. The CHAIRMAN said that the general discussion on the subject was closed, and invited the Committee to consider the specific proposals before it.

22. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the Secretary-General had asked him to refer to a statement made on his behalf in the Fifth Committee at the 1456th meeting to the effect that authority had been given at the highest level in the Secretariat to inform the Committee that the Centre for Economic and Social Information would shortly be integrated in the Office of Public Information. The Secretary-General had also asked him to remind the Committee that in his statement he had given assurance that "the comments made in this debate will be studied and taken into account, and the administrative arrangements will be reviewed in the light of those comments, as well as the proposals of the Administrative Management Service", which the Secretary-General had not yet had the opportunity to discuss with his

\* Resumed from the 1462nd meeting.

colleagues concerned. The Secretary-General had still not had the opportunity to hold those discussions. When they did take place, it would be his purpose to spare no effort to improve the performance of the information machinery in general, and not least in the field of economic and social development.

23. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation had studied with great interest draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1. He wished to thank the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania and the other sponsors for the changes which made the draft closer to the views of other groups of countries. His delegation particularly appreciated the inclusion of paragraph 6, which reflected the views of the countries that had expressed the desire that the draft resolution should not omit the role of the Consultative Panel on Public Information. However, despite the recommendation in that paragraph, no task had yet been entrusted to the Panel, and the question of its functions remained unresolved. His delegation had therefore submitted amendments, in document A/C.5/L.1070, to the draft resolution with the aim of postponing until the twenty-seventh session consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the acquisition and replacement of equipment (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1/Add.1, annex I), in order to give the Consultative Panel time to obtain technical advice on the effectiveness of various new facilities. In addition, his delegation proposed, in operative paragraph 4, temporary elimination of the reference to paragraph 261 (xii) and (xiv) of the Secretary-General's related report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1), concerning travel funds for seminars and conferences and periodic meetings of information centre directors. In view of the Organization's serious financial situation, his delegation recommended that for the time being there should be no endorsement of new seminars and conferences, which would involve heavy travel expenses, and that the Consultative Panel should undertake consultations to study the effectiveness of such actions. The amendment to paragraph 8 of the draft resolution was meant to emphasize the need for the Secretary-General also to intensify his efforts to eliminate shortcomings in information activities in the political sphere, because of the undoubted importance of that field for the activities of the United Nations. The amendment to paragraph 9 was intended to express the view that not every resolution adopted by the General Assembly should automatically lead to the allocation of new funds and that many resolutions, particularly in the field of information, could be fully implemented within the limits of the resources normally allocated. His delegation was convinced that the amendments which it proposed would ensure much wider support for the draft resolution and that, consequently, its sponsors would study them carefully.

24. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said that his delegation had suggested at the 1456th meeting that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 should include two further points in their text. First, it had proposed the addition, at the end of the first preambular paragraph, of the words "and the statements made by the representatives of the Secretary-General and by the delegations of Member countries during the discussion in the Fifth Committee on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities". His delegation believed that the General Assembly could not confine its consideration of so

important a question as that of information to the report of the Secretary-General and the related reports of the Advisory Committee. Secondly, his delegation had also proposed that the first part of paragraph 7 should be amended to read "Professional staff highly qualified in the field of information". His delegation further considered that it would be a mistake to deprive information centres of their directors, who were specialists in information work, and to entrust functions in the field of information to Resident Representatives of UNDP. The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania had stated, at the 1462nd meeting, that the sponsors of the draft resolution could not accept the inclusion of the words "in the field of information" in paragraph 7, which was concerned with information centres. That being so, the Colombian delegation felt that the draft resolution did not go to the heart of the problem of information but was confined to its administrative aspects. As it stood, therefore, it did not go far enough, even though it was a first step towards a solution. He understood that the sponsors of the draft resolution were anxious to put it to the vote without delay. If circumstances permitted, however, his delegation would like to propose further amendments which, in its view, would direct it more nearly to the core of the problem. First, it would like to insert, in the penultimate preambular paragraph, after the words "United Nations information centres" the words "as appropriate instruments for informing the peoples of the world of its objectives and activities". Second, a new preambular paragraph might be added, which would read:

*"Recognizing the right of the Councils and Main Committees of the General Assembly to make recommendations and advise the Secretary-General on public information"*.

Finally, a new operative paragraph could be included whereby the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take immediate steps to reorganize the Office of Public Information with a view to enabling it to carry out its mandate more effectively in accordance with the basic principles set forth in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952.

25. If the views which it had expressed were not taken sufficiently into account, his delegation would be obliged to abstain from voting on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1.

26. The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of Colombia whether he intended to submit his amendments formally, in which case he should submit them in writing.

27. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said that he was prepared to submit the amendments formally.

28. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that, while his delegation could agree to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 as a whole, it had some doubts as to the wisdom of paragraph 10 as it now stood. A merger of the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Office of Public Information might give rise to legal problems. Clearly the special rules for the Centre could not be applied to the body which would result from the amalgamation of the two

entities, but it was doubtful whether the rules would not simply cease to exist with the disappearance of the body for which they were given.

29. Mr. GONCHARENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) proposed the addition to the text of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 of a new operative paragraph 7, which would read:

*“Requests the Secretary-General to adopt measures to achieve the necessary balance in the geographical distribution of the staff of the Office of Public Information with a view to further improving the work of the Office and, in particular, preparing and disseminating information on United Nations activities concerning the strengthening of peace and international security, disarmament, social and economic progress and the struggle against apartheid, racism and colonialism.”<sup>1</sup>*

30. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Committee had already delayed too long in taking a decision on the issue under consideration. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 would be meeting on the following morning to consider the various amendments proposed by delegations, after which the Committee could proceed to the vote.

31. On behalf of the sponsors, he could state already that the amendments proposed by the Australian delegation at the 1462nd meeting were accepted, provided that the Canadian delegation withdrew its proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11).

32. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that, in the circumstances, his delegation would withdraw its proposal.

33. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the representative of Denmark had suggested that the Centre for Economic and Social Information should continue to function independently and that operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 should be amended accordingly. However, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had now read out a statement by the Secretary-General from which it appeared that the decision to integrate the Centre in the Office of Public Information had already been taken. If that was the case, he did not see how the sponsors of the draft resolution could change paragraph 10.

34. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) wondered whether the representative of Denmark had been referring to paragraph 10 as it appeared in document A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 or to the text as revised to take account of the amendments which had been accepted by the sponsors—who could no longer agree to anything but drafting changes in that version.

35. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that the Soviet representative's latest comment left him somewhat perplexed; he would like some clarification from the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management as to the interpretation to be given to the Secretary-General's

statement, which the Under-Secretary-General himself had read out.

36. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that he had nothing to add to the statement. The Secretary-General had simply wished to confirm the statement made on his behalf at the 1456th meeting.

37. The CHAIRMAN asked the Soviet representative whether the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (A/C.5/L.1066) was still before the Committee.

38. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was, and the Committee would have to take a decision on it.

39. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) asked whether the full text of the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management could be made available to the Committee.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that the full text would be issued as a press release.

*[See note at end of paragraph 20 above.]*

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

Personnel questions (*continued*)\* (A/8454, A/8483, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26 to 31)

(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)\* (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29 to 31)

41. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) thanked the delegations that had supported the proposal submitted by his delegation and the delegation of Poland (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29). Although there had been some amendments to that proposal, it had not given rise to any fundamental objections. His delegation and the delegation of Poland had already accepted the first three amendments proposed by the United States delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.30). The fourth United States amendment had created some difficulties for the sponsors since it proposed the deletion of the words “to serve as a means of expediting” in connexion with the long-term plan of recruitment. At the 1461st meeting, the delegation of India had appealed to the sponsors of the proposal not to oppose the fourth United States amendment. The representative of India had pointed out that General Assembly resolution 2539 (XXIV) already specified that the long-term plan of recruitment should be a means of accelerating the achievement of an equitable geographical distribution of the staff, and the reference to the decision of the Assembly implied also a reference to that specific provision. On that understanding the sponsors could accept the fourth United States amendment as well.

42. He thanked the Colombian delegation for not pressing for the incorporation of its oral amendment in the draft decision before the Committee. Taking account of the

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/L.1072.

\* Resumed from the 1461st meeting.

wishes of the Swedish delegation, the sponsors had decided to replace the words "concerned at the lack of progress" in the first sentence of his proposal by the words "concerned at the inadequate progress". They hoped that that change would meet the wishes of the Swedish delegation and that the draft paragraph for inclusion in the Committee's report on the composition of the Secretariat, as amended, would be adopted unanimously by the Committee.

43. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) explained that his delegation had agreed to withdraw the amendment it had first proposed to the draft paragraph submitted by the Polish and Ukrainian delegations because it had later proposed a new paragraph for inclusion in the report (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.31).

44. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) thanked the Ukrainian delegation for agreeing to change the words "concerned at the lack of progress" in its draft to a wording closer to what his delegation wanted and more in keeping with the spirit of the text agreed on at the previous session for inclusion in the Committee's report to the General Assembly. However, his delegation would like the wording to be made even more positive; it might, for instance, be replaced by the words "believing that further progress is possible".

45. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should accept the proposal submitted by the Polish and Ukrainian delegations (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29), as modified by the various amendments, and that it should proceed to consider the Colombian delegation's proposals (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.31).

*It was so decided.*

46. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that his delegation had endorsed the proposal submitted by the Polish and Ukrainian delegations because it had always supported any proposals aimed at ensuring the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution. It felt that that proposal would have the same results as that submitted by the Colombian delegation, so that there was no need also to include the latter in the report. The principle of equitable geographical distribution was clearly enunciated in Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and had since been repeatedly reaffirmed in many General Assembly resolutions. It was normally the responsibility of the Secretariat to put those principles into practice as best it could. However, since the question was once again being raised, his delegation believed that there was discrimination against certain regions, and also against certain countries in regions which, taken as a whole, were "over-represented". Spain was in the latter category, since, despite the fact that its contribution to the United Nations budget was more than 1 per cent, it was the only country contributing more than 1 per cent not to have one of its nationals in any senior-level post among the 21 which were available. In view of the foregoing, his delegation felt that the draft paragraph submitted by the Colombian delegation, which spoke only of giving greater participation to nationals of countries in the geographical regions of Latin America, Asia and Africa, was not entirely balanced and might result in some discrimination. In contrast, the proposal in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.29 was entirely balanced, since it stressed that "preference should be given to qualified candidates of under-represented countries".

47. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said his delegation supported the Colombian delegation's proposal because it considered that the United Nations should give urgent consideration to the benefits which might accrue from recruiting into the Secretariat qualified young men and women who were trained in the latest techniques. The Organization must appeal to young people, who everywhere in the world, and particularly in the developing countries, wanted to make their contributions to solving the problems which confronted their countries.

48. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that his delegation had favoured the proposal submitted by Poland and the Ukrainian SSR. Although it agreed with the ideas expressed in the Colombian delegation's proposal, it could not support it, since the Colombian delegation had mentioned expressly only Latin America, Asia and Africa; yet as the Spanish delegation had pointed out, there were certain countries in other regions which were also under-represented. Italy was a particular case in point. If the Colombian delegation's draft was put to the vote, his delegation would be obliged to abstain from voting on it.

49. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) said that his delegation agreed in principle with the Colombian delegation's proposal, which stressed the fact that, although certain countries were adequately represented from a purely numerical standpoint, the only posts occupied by their nationals were at the lowest levels.

50. Mr. PICK (Canada) agreed that it would be desirable to lower the average age of the Secretariat by making an effort to recruit more young people. In order to attract them, it would be necessary to offer them—as was done everywhere—the prospect of an interesting career. However, appointing young people directly to permanent senior-level posts would have an effect opposite to what was sought, since they could be expected to occupy those posts until their retirement, thus blocking for many years any possibility of promotion and consequently preventing the recruitment of other young people, who would have no hope of advancing to senior positions.

51. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said that the main purpose of the paragraph which he was proposing for inclusion in the Committee's report was to emphasize the qualitative aspect of the questions, which in his view was more important than its purely quantitative aspect. The anxieties of the under-represented countries had already been expressed in the paragraph proposed by Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, which the Committee had now decided to include in its report. Some representatives had noted that Latin America, Asia and Africa were expressly mentioned in the paragraph submitted by his delegation. That was simply because of the interest which Colombia, as a developing country, took in that group of countries, and the purpose was certainly not to discriminate in any way.

52. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that he was in favour of the Colombian proposal for the reasons stated by the representative of Nigeria.

53. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) requested the representative of Colombia to insert in the first sentence of his text the words "Eastern Europe", since that region was under-

represented. If that amendment was accepted, he would support the inclusion of the paragraph proposed by the Colombian delegation in the Committee's report.

54. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) questioned the desirability of inserting in the Committee's report texts dealing with points which had not been discussed in detail. Recruitment was a complex matter, since care had to be taken not only to achieve equitable geographical representation but also to make the Secretariat an effective instrument. As the representative of Canada had pointed out, it seemed to be going rather too far to propose that young people should be appointed immediately to permanent senior-level posts. His delegation would therefore have difficulty in agreeing to the inclusion in the Committee's report of the full text proposed by Colombia.

55. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had given careful consideration to the paragraph submitted by Colombia, since the question of the composition of the Secretariat was extremely important. Certain countries—for example, the Soviet Union—were clearly under-represented. The Colombian delegation seemed to be stressing the fact that the posts to which persons from Latin America, Africa and Asia were appointed should include senior-level posts. That idea was worthy of support, since all regions of the world should be equitably represented at that level of the Secretariat, without any discrimination. However, his delegation had a few comments to make on the Colombian text.

56. First, table 18 of the Secretary-General's report under consideration (A/8483) indicated that, of the three regions mentioned by Colombia, only Africa was in fact under-represented. Those three regions should not, therefore, be placed in the same category. Furthermore, it should be noted that the various countries in each region were very far from being equally represented. In the case of Africa, for example, the representation of the People's Republic of the Congo was lower than the minimum weighted figure, while that of South Africa was above the maximum weighted figure. Thus, to speak simply of regions gave no clear indication of the real situation.

57. Second, his delegation noted that the Colombian text referred twice to permanent posts, which suggested that Colombia approved of the system of permanent contracts. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, was opposed to it, since the system was used principally as a means of perpetuating a geographical distribution that was inequitable. Furthermore, if, as the Colombian delegation proposed, the Secretary-General appointed young men and women to permanent posts at a senior level, it would not be possible for all countries to be represented at that level, since the number of posts involved was clearly smaller than the number of Member States. It would therefore be better to establish a system of rotation, but it was clear that the posts in question could not be rotated at reasonable intervals if they were filled on a permanent basis.

58. Finally, the proposal that young people should be appointed to such high posts was open to question. They would need to have acquired sufficient experience, in both a general and a professional sense, to discharge their administrative functions satisfactorily. Before giving orders,

one must learn to obey. It was therefore preferable to appoint to such posts persons who had already spent a number of years in a national or international administration. That was all the more desirable if the contracts were permanent, since it would be impossible, should officials recruited on that basis not give satisfaction, to replace them until they reached retiring age. If the Colombian text were adopted, it would require the Secretary-General to give a young candidate who had not proved himself preference over an older candidate whose reputation was well established. That could be detrimental to the efficiency of the Secretariat.

59. For those reasons, his delegation hoped that the Committee and the sponsor of the proposal would seek to improve the text so as to retain what was good and eliminate what was questionable.

60. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) expressed full support for the comments made by the representatives of Canada and the Netherlands regarding the Colombian proposal. His delegation was unable to accept it because, if it were adopted, it might run counter to the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

61. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said he appreciated the concern which had motivated the representative of Colombia, but some improvements could perhaps be made to the wording of the proposed paragraph, and in general it would be better to study the question more closely. He therefore hoped that the Colombian delegation would accept the suggestion made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

62. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that he supported the Colombian proposal and would favour the inclusion in the Committee's report of the paragraph submitted by the delegation of Colombia. He considered, however, that the comments made by the representative of the Soviet Union should be taken into account, and he would like the second sentence of the Colombian text to be amended through the deletion of either the words "senior level" or the word "young".

63. The CHAIRMAN noted that delegations were not in unanimous agreement on the inclusion in the Committee's report of the paragraph proposed by the Colombian delegation. He therefore suggested that it should be left to the Rapporteur to draft a text reflecting the various views expressed.

64. Mr. PICK (Canada) requested that the Rapporteur should indicate clearly that, while some delegations had favoured the Colombian proposal, others had not supported it. Otherwise, a separate vote should be taken on the two parts of the Colombian proposal.

65. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the Committee should not proceed to a vote, since what was involved was only a paragraph in the Committee's report and not a draft resolution. In any case, the text drafted by the Rapporteur could be discussed and amended if the Committee so desired.

66. The CHAIRMAN said he believed that the Rapporteur would try to accede to the representative of Canada's



request by preparing, after consultations with the Colombian delegation and others, a text reflecting in a balanced way the various views that had been expressed.

67. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said he hoped that the report would indicate clearly that some delegations had been definitely opposed to the inclusion of the paragraph submitted by the Colombian delegation. He for one could accept neither part of that text.

68. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said he appreciated the concern of the Colombian delegation but felt that the wording of its text could be improved. While his delegation attached great importance to geographical distribution, it considered that the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff should, as stipulated in Article 101 of the Charter, be the necessity of securing the highest standards of competence. That was why it had supported the proposal submitted by Poland and the Ukrainian SSR, as amended by the United States and Sweden. Furthermore, it considered that there should not be an express reference to three regions, as in the Colombian text; and a word such as "requests" or "recommends" would have been more appropriate than the word "appeals" in the second sentence of the English text of that proposal. The word "give" which came a little later in that sentence was also questionable, since it could not be said that the Secretary-General "gave" posts. His delegation was not opposed in principle to the recruitment of young people, provided, however, that they were qualified, since competence and not age must be the main criterion. The task of the Secretary-General with regard to recruitment should not be made too complex through the introduction of additional considerations. It would be useful, however, if the Committee's report reflected the two points of view expressed, so that the Secretary-General could take them into account.

69. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said he hoped that his proposal would be put to the vote, so that the report would indicate clearly what support it had received.

70. The CHAIRMAN urged the representative of Colombia not to press for a vote on his text, since it was not a draft resolution.

71. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Chairman. However, if the representative of Colombia insisted that a vote should be taken on his text, he would ask to be allowed to submit amendments.

72. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said he did not agree with the representative of the Soviet Union on that point.

73. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) requested that the Committee should not spend too much time in debating a question that would be considered in detail in 1972. He urged the representative of Colombia to accept the Chairman's suggestion.

74. Mr. GUPTA (India) urged the Colombian delegation to withdraw its proposal in favour of the Chairman's proposal. If the two proposals were voted on, his delegation would like the Chairman's to be put to the vote first.

75. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) suggested that the Committee should not vote on either of the two proposals, since that was not the Committee's normal procedure in the case of a passage in the draft report.

76. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that he fully supported the Chairman's proposal, the aim of which was simply to ensure that the report submitted to the General Assembly would objectively reflect the views expressed by delegations.

77. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) said that he agreed with the Soviet delegation, inasmuch as he supported the general idea behind the Colombian proposal without endorsing the draft paragraph in question in every detail. Consequently, if the Committee decided to vote on that proposal, his delegation would be obliged to submit an amendment.

78. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) urged the Colombian delegation to withdraw its proposal. Although his delegation supported the general considerations underlying the proposal, it considered that the Chairman's proposal was logical and reasonable, and that it would be better to leave it to the Rapporteur to draft that part of the report in the light of the various views expressed.

79. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said that he was prepared to agree to the Chairman's proposal, provided that the Rapporteur included an account of his delegation's proposal in the report.

80. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the debate on the question should be closed and that the Committee should accept his proposal, which was to leave to the Rapporteur the task of reflecting in the report the substance of the Committee's discussions.

*It was so decided.*

81. Mr. GUPTA (India) said he wished to make some comments on the proposals in documents A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26 and A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.28, which had been approved by the Committee.

82. At the 1461st meeting, when the Committee had approved the proposal in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.26, it had also approved the Indian delegation's amendment (1461st meeting) requesting the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on the composition of the Secretariat information on measures taken to safeguard the interests of members of the Secretariat whose mother tongue was not one of the official or working languages of the Organization. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of those measures and determine whether the application of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) resulted in undue discrimination, the Secretary-General's reports should contain certain specific information. It would be useful to know how many staff members had received faster within-grade increments, or between-grade promotions, as a direct result of the application of the resolution in question. The information should be given both by linguistic group and by nationality. There should also be a report on how many staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the official or working languages of the Organization had received faster within-grade and between-

grade promotion, and how many had advanced at the normal rate. Lastly, there should be a table showing how many staff members whose mother tongue was not an official or working language had been promoted, in comparison with 1971, when the resolution was not applicable. A similar table should be drawn up in respect of those whose mother tongues were official languages.

83. With regard to document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.28, he said that the table asked for should consist of two main columns, headed "Permanent staff" and "Fixed-term staff", each of which should be further divided into two columns, headed "Percentage" and "Absolute figures". It

was only on the understanding that the information would be submitted in the above format that his delegation had supported those proposals.

84. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) said he wished to make it clear that, contrary to what appeared to be the belief of some speakers, the Philippines was not one of the over-represented countries. Although it was true that many Philippine nationals held posts at the lower levels, none held any senior post.

*The meeting rose at 10.50 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1464th meeting)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (continued)\* (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR. 1 AND 2 AND ADD.7, ADD.8, ADD.10 AND ADD.11, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1389 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1390 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/REV.1, A/C.5/L.1071)

*ADDITIONAL SEATING FACILITIES IN PRINCIPAL  
MEETING AREAS (A/8407, A/C.5/1391)*

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee endorsed the proposal in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's related report (A/C.5/1391) to expand to 142 the number of seats available for delegations in principal meeting areas, a project whose cost was estimated at approximately \$249,500. With regard to the suggestion contained in paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's report, that enough furniture should be purchased at the present time to provide eventually for 150 delegations, the Advisory Committee considered that the likely savings in unit costs did not justify such an investment in items which might not be required for many years and whose storage would entail additional costs for the United Nations. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the latter suggestion should not be adopted.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.7, paras. 6 to 8).

*It was so decided.*

*EXTENSION OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA  
(A/8408/ADD.10, A/C.5/1389 AND CORR.1 AND 2)*

3. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that in its related report (A/8408/Add.10), the Advisory Committee had expressed concern at the steady rise in the cost of the

project for extending the Palais des Nations which had occurred since that project had first been approved. In spring 1971, the construction cost for the extension to the Palais had been estimated at \$27.5 million, rather than the \$22 million which had originally been approved by the General Assembly in resolution 2488 (XXIII), and the latest estimate amounted to \$29.4 million—an increase of \$7.4 million in three years. That figure would rise still higher as a result of the revaluation of the Swiss franc, which, as could be seen from paragraphs 28-34 of the Secretary-General's related report (A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2), would lead to a substantial increase in costs quoted in dollars. Furthermore, the figure of \$29.4 million covered only the cost of construction as such and did not include the interest to be paid on the loan. In paragraph 20 of its report, the Advisory Committee recognized that certain circumstances which added to the cost of the project were wholly beyond the control of the Secretary-General and that it was not unusual, in a time of rising prices, for building costs to overrun the initial estimates. Nevertheless, it was convinced that certain of the cost increases now foreseen might have been avoided or minimized had greater vigilance been exercised in the execution of the project and contracts, and that, when unavoidable cost increases arose, greater efforts might have been made to seek compensating economies in other areas, taking into account the budgetary limitations set for the project by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee wondered whether the latest target date for the completion of the project and the latest cost estimate could be regarded as final and whether the new estimate would not, once again, be exceeded. Experience suggested that the possibility of further delays and, consequently, further cost increases could not be ruled out. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 23 of its report, suggested to the General Assembly the creation in Geneva of a small *ad hoc* committee to review the progress of work and to advise the Secretary-General.

4. In the light of the increase in the estimated cost, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal that the budgetary appropriation for 1972 for the Palais project be increased from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million. With regard to financing arrangements, the Advisory Committee had concluded that it would be in the interest of Member States if the necessary repayments—and the consequent budgetary appropriations—were spread over 10 years instead of five. Accordingly, it recommended that amortization should begin in 1975, rather than 1973, and continue until 1984. Finally, bearing in mind the reservations in paragraph 19 (b) of its report concerning the propriety of increasing the fees payable to the architects and engineers, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the continuation of the construction project within

\* Resumed from the 1459th meeting.

the total of the new revised estimates as proposed by the Secretary-General.

5. Mr. PALTHEY (Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) said he could well understand the Advisory Committee's concern at the increased cost of the project for extending the Palais des Nations. However, he did not share the pessimism displayed in the Advisory Committee's report. In his view, the extension of the Palais des Nations should be regarded as a stage in the development of the United Nations activities at Geneva. The Palais needed always to be prepared to accommodate conferences and to be able to provide the necessary services for such conferences, which required a constant adaptation of physical conditions to the growing needs of the Organization. To that end, long-term estimates were required, since construction work took a long time to complete and the needs of the United Nations were increasing rapidly.

6. Three factors had contributed to the increase in estimated construction costs. Changes to the original plan were responsible for \$1,884,000 of the increase. The original estimates had proved to be inadequate, particularly with regard to offices, the garage and the cafeteria, and it had seemed preferable and less costly to expand the capacity of the building during the construction period. Those changes, which accounted for \$1,238,000, had in fact been brought to the notice of the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly. It had also been thought necessary to improve the building aesthetically so that it would tone in with the old Palais des Nations. The cost of that change was \$646,000, or 2.8 per cent of the original estimate.

7. Unexpected work and inaccurate estimates were responsible for some \$2 million of the increase. The cost of the additional work was \$4 million, from which the \$2 million which had originally been provided for that purpose should be deducted. The work involved, in particular, the construction of an access road at a cost of some \$850,000.

8. Finally, \$3,557,000 of the increase—or 16 per cent of the original cost—was due to the rise in prices. That was a factor beyond the Secretary-General's control which had affected the entire Swiss building industry. According to the Office of Price Control in Zurich, the index of construction costs had risen from 103.5 to 140.4 between 1 October 1968 and 1 April 1971, an increase of 35.8 per cent. According to the Société suisse des entrepreneurs, construction costs in Geneva had increased by 38 per cent over the period 1968-1971. That increase in costs had not affected merely the United Nations: the cost of the ILO premises, originally established at \$105 million had been estimated at \$132 million in 1971, and the cost of the International Conference Centre, estimated at \$45 million when construction had begun in 1969, was now estimated at \$65 million—an increase of 40 per cent over the original figure.

9. It might be thought that those cost increases could have been avoided if project management had been better organized. However, all necessary precautions had been taken to ensure the strictest supervision of work. An office of architects and two engineering firms made plans for inviting tenders, established specifications, made project execution plans and supervised work. The Administration

approved general plans, invited tenders, concluded contracts with the technical assistance of the architects, and checked and settled invoices. The Belgian Audit Office had seconded one of its members, a specialist in the control of financial commitments with regard to public works projects who scrutinized all contracts before signature and all invoices before payment. The Secretary-General endorsed the Advisory Committee's proposal to establish a small *ad hoc* committee at Geneva, since it was always useful for the General Assembly and Member States to be able to follow the construction work. It was, however, rather late to establish a committee to deal with the planning of that work, since the planning phase had already been completed. Nevertheless, the committee could be extremely helpful to the Secretary-General in the current difficult period.

10. In conclusion, he felt that the figures quoted in the Secretary-General's report were realistic and took into account the possibility of a further increase in costs. The construction work was now drawing to a close and the Administration hoped that it could be completed by the anticipated date. There should therefore be no more unexpected work or unpleasant surprises. He shared the Advisory Committee's regret at the rise in prices; however, the difficulties which had been encountered were due to a combination of unforeseeable circumstances and all operations had been carried out in close contact with the Advisory Committee, for whose assistance and advice he was grateful.

11. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) thanked the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva for his very precise, detailed and exhaustive statement. The increased building costs of the extension of the Palais des Nations appeared to be due, first, to the smallness of the initial appropriations and rising prices and, secondly, to the shortage and high cost of labour at Geneva. The construction workers were mainly foreign and they took two months' vacation in the summer, which was the best time of year for building. But none of the construction costs could be justified unless the new building was to serve the needs of all countries, particularly the developing countries and not only those of Europe, by becoming a vital centre for economic and social co-operation. In that connexion, he asked whether UNCTAD was to be housed in the new building; if it was not, the extra expenditure would be unjustifiable.

12. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) pointed out that if the Italian construction workers, who had a world-wide reputation for skill and conscientiousness, took a month's vacation every year, it was because the Swiss authorities did not grant them work permits for more than 11 months. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation in its report and expressed the hope that no effort would be spared to complete the work before there could be any fresh rise in building prices.

13. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation had listened with close attention to the reasons given by the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva for the increased building costs there. The Deputy Director-General had said that precautions were taken to ensure the strictest supervision of work and that operations had been carried out in close contact with the Advisory

Committee. In its related report, the Advisory Committee stated that late submission of drawings by the architects and engineers had caused delays which had increased the cost of the building, and that certain of the cost increases might have been avoided or minimized had greater vigilance been exercised in the execution of the project and contracts. Those statements seemed to be somewhat contradictory. His delegation would like an explanation and also to know what actual steps were taken to exercise vigilance over the execution of the project and contracts.

14. The Chilean representative's question was most pertinent; the Colombian delegation would also like to know whether, when the new building was finished, the United Nations Office at Geneva would be of service to all the bodies concerned with development programmes, which were of capital importance to the developing countries. If the buildings currently under construction were not large enough to house UNCTAD, and if UNDP was to go on meeting in the WHO building, the heavy expenditure envisaged would not be justified. It was essential that the funds expended should produce a direct return in benefits for the developing countries.

15. Mr. PALTHEY (Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) assured the Italian representative that the Swiss authorities had shown great understanding about granting work permits to the Italian construction workers. Such workers never emigrated, however, and always returned regularly to their own country; it was that which held up the construction work.

16. As to the supervision of project and contract execution, he did not feel his own statement conflicted in any way with that of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Indeed, however tight the technical, administrative and legal controls were, in practice a contract could hardly ever be carried out to the letter. Inasmuch as all parts of the work were closely interlinked, the entire execution of the project went out of kilter if a single contractor failed to keep to the schedule. Furthermore, he did not quite see how contracts could be carried out at the original price when they were delayed 18 months or two years in execution. It was not possible to determine exactly who was responsible for that delay and although the Administration might partly be to blame, it did not bear the entire responsibility; such things as the state of the building trade in Europe and the difficulties that were characteristic of modern times had to be borne in mind.

17. Replying to the Chilean representative, he said that the question whether the new buildings going up at Geneva and costing much more than originally estimated would really meet the needs went to the heart of the matter. From the technical point of view, the conference rooms would answer all foreseeable needs from 1973 onwards, and on the other hand the UNCTAD offices would all be in the new buildings. Nevertheless, it would be advisable to take a broader view and ask whether Geneva was to become the centre for all United Nations development activities. Such a question lay outside the competence of the Secretariat; it was for the General Assembly to decide where the different United Nations bodies should carry out their functions.

18. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) thanked the Deputy Director-General for his answer, which covered most of the

points he had had in mind. Nevertheless, the Chilean delegation was still anxious to know where the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre was to be located. In its view, the Centre played a primary role in development activities and could not be separated from the UNCTAD secretariat. Conferences of all kinds could certainly be held in the new buildings but the Deputy Director-General had been a little vague about the exact location of the Centre.

19. Mr. PALTHEY (Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) said that the location of the International Trade Centre was a burning question, and he shared the concern of the UNCTAD members and other delegations which attached so much importance to it. At present, the Centre's offices were scattered, which meant that working conditions were far from good. The first step, therefore, would be to locate the Centre's offices all together in one place. It would be possible to find room for a staff of between 150 and 200 in the new buildings at Geneva, and the premises currently occupied by GATT might also be used when GATT moved to its new building in 1974. It was for the General Assembly to decide how the buildings were to be used, but in any event the International Trade Centre and UNCTAD would be close together within two or three years.

20. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, although there had been close co-operation between the Advisory Committee and the United Nations Office at Geneva in so far as the Advisory Committee had made several trips to Geneva, both before and after the start of the construction work, and had had many talks with the Deputy Director-General of the Office, it could not be said that the Advisory Committee had had any active part in supervising the execution of the work or that it had been consulted before decisions were adopted.

21. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) expressed the hope that the Deputy Director-General would bear in mind the view unanimously expressed by representatives that the International Trade Centre should not be separated from UNCTAD itself. The technical assistance process involved a whole cycle of investigation, preparation and execution, and if the UNCTAD Manufactures Division, for instance, was separated from the export promotion body, orderly progress would be utterly impossible. The Chilean delegation therefore hoped that in making its decision the Administration would bear in mind the interests of the developing countries.

22. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that the misgivings his delegation had felt on reading the relevant reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee had not been dissipated by the statement of the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva or by that of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. He recognized the complexity of the problems caused by the lag between the time when the plans were drawn up and the time when they were carried out. His delegation nevertheless had the impression that grave problems had arisen with regard to contracting, supervising the execution of the contractors' work and the modifications introduced when work was already under way, and that there had not always been close contact on those

points between the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee had suggested that an *ad hoc* committee should be set up at Geneva, but the Netherlands delegation felt that, given the extremely technical character of the problems to be dealt with, the Advisory Committee itself was least qualified to advise and to supervise work in that field.

23. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that his delegation shared the Advisory Committee's concern about the delay in the execution of the plans and about the increased cost of the work owing to shortage of labour and the revaluation of the Swiss franc. His delegation was in favour of setting up an *ad hoc* committee at Geneva like those that had been established for WHO and the ILO buildings. It also agreed with the Advisory Committee that no efforts should be spared to keep construction moving ahead according to the schedule, particularly as contracts to the estimated value of \$8 million had yet to be concluded. Lastly, it supported the recommendations in paragraphs 7 and 26 of the Advisory Committee's report.

*PROGRAMME OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA (A/8408/ADD.10, A/C.5/1390 AND CORR.1)*

24. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the Secretary-General's report on the question under consideration (A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee's report on the same subject was to be found in paragraphs 2 to 7 of its related report (A/8408/Add.10).

25. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General was of the opinion that the cost of the whole programme would not exceed the appropriation approved by the General Assembly, leaving aside the effects of currency parity changes. There was an increase of \$420,000 due to the revaluation of the Swiss franc and that figure would have to be revised again should there be any further parity changes. The estimated cost of maintenance of roads and car parks had risen from \$530,000 to \$610,000. The Advisory Committee hoped that the Secretary-General would be able to effect some savings in carrying out the plan for the press and public service areas at the Palais, the cost of which had been estimated at \$740,000. Finally, it recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to continue with the programme of major maintenance and improvements and authorize an appropriation of \$1,238,000 (\$140,000 more than the appropriation to date), it being understood that similar appropriations would be voted for each of the financial years 1973 and 1974 to finance the balance of the programme.

26. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation wished to make some observations on the whole question of the United Nations construction plan and proposed that the decision should be deferred to the following day.

27. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) appealed to the Soviet delegation not to insist on its proposal since the Committee was already very far behind in its work.

*UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN SANTIAGO, CHILE (A/8408/ADD.11, A/C.5/1396)*

*UNITED NATIONS BUILDINGS IN BANGKOK AND ADDIS ABABA (A/C.5/1392)*

28. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said he wished to make some remarks on certain passages of the Advisory Committee's relevant report (A/8408/Add.11) concerning the United Nations building in Santiago which seemed to him confusing. Paragraph 2 of the report stated that the revised plan provided for the construction of a 12-storey earthquake-resistant tower. He did not see the use of pointing out a fact which might discourage some Members of the United Nations from proceeding with construction work. In paragraph 9, the Advisory Committee raised two questions which did not seem to be completely warranted. The ECLA building had been built as a United Nations building. At the outset the Chilean Government had given the necessary land for its construction but had not undertaken any engagement as to the construction itself, the costs of which were to be the responsibility of the United Nations. The original building was to have housed ECLA and the local staff of certain institutions. In view of the increase in construction costs, however, it had been necessary to request an additional contribution from the Chilean Government, which had given the equivalent of \$1.2 million on the understanding that the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning would be accommodated in the new building together with ECLA. That condition showed that, in the minds of the Chilean Government, the Institute was a part of ECLA and should be a permanent body. Since then the activities of ECLA had expanded and it was foreseeable that within a few years' time the Institute would not be able to remain in the building; it would not however be desirable to separate it from ECLA. It seemed logical that, since it had given the sum of \$1.2 million in order not to have to assume the costs of constructing a building for the Institute, the Chilean Government had the right to request the United Nations to provide new premises for the Institute. As for the guarantee of continued financial support for the Institute after 1974, the United Nations should provide a stable and sufficient backing until the Governments of the Latin American countries were able to finance the Institute themselves.

29. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) assured the Chilean representative that the construction of an earthquake-resistant tower had been mentioned without any ulterior motive. It was simply one of the interesting characteristics of the construction. In 1970, the Secretary-General had stated that the plan envisaged was not entirely satisfactory,<sup>1</sup> and the Fifth Committee had authorized him to request the drafting of a revised plan. The revised plan provided for the construction of a more modest building than that previously envisaged. The total cost of the project was \$2.5 million; that figure included a contingency provision of 10 per cent to cover the cost of changes and modifications which might be made to the plans. In paragraphs 6 and 7 of its report, the Advisory Committee had studied the present figures for staff occupying the

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 73, document A/C.5/1349.*

premises and had projected future staff figures. Based on the staff expansion assumed, there would be sufficient additional premises in 1974 to accommodate approximately 300 people and if those assumptions were projected to 1983 there would still be some surplus space. In 1974, when the new building was complete, it would be mainly used for the Institute. Two interrelated questions were raised in paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report and the Chilean representative had felt that those questions were superfluous in the light of the history of the Institute. Taking into account the facts set out in the annex to the report, the Advisory Committee did not entirely share the opinion of the Chilean representative and felt that the future of the Institute and its continued backing raised a number of problems. First, the contribution of \$1.2 million from the Chilean Government was associated with both the accommodation of the Institute in the United Nations building and the increase in construction costs of the building and, second, the Institute was not guaranteed continued financial backing after 1974. The Advisory Committee had felt it right to submit those questions to the Fifth Committee although it did not wish to delay work on the project while waiting for them to be solved.

30. As for the Documents Research Centre, the construction of which would be undertaken thanks to a generous donation by the Government of the Netherlands, the Advisory Committee requested that no appropriation should be included for that item in the regular budget. The

programme of modification and improvement of existing premises had not been changed and certain savings had been achieved.

31. Concerning the execution of construction projects for the United Nations buildings in Bangkok and Addis Ababa, preparatory work was behind schedule, but the Secretary-General expected nevertheless that the two buildings would be completed as envisaged, at the end of 1973. It had been possible to spread the financing over four years instead of three. The Secretary-General had taken account of that possibility in calculating the appropriation requested for the 1972 financial year and, if the General Assembly approved those appropriations, the Advisory Committee suggested that it should also approve the new financing plan.

32. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) thanked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the explanations he had given in reply to the first question raised in paragraph 9 of the Committee's report. The second question should be answered by the General Assembly. He regretted that he had omitted to mention the generous donation made by the Government of the Netherlands for the Documents Research Centre. The Netherlands was a leader in positive action undertaken in the field of development and the Chilean Government was very grateful to it.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*





**Chairman:** Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1464th meeting)

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

**SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (continued)** (for the documentation, see the 1465th meeting)

1. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that, having heard the replies by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to some of the questions raised at the previous meeting by the representative of Chile, his delegation was ready to support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paras. 10 to 12 of its report on the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile (A/8408/Add.11). However, it hoped that replies would be given to the remaining questions raised by the representative of Chile.

2. With regard to paragraphs 19 to 23 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1396), his delegation wondered whether, in addition to the improvements costing \$950,000 already carried out, any improvements had been made to the cafeteria and the conference room on the second floor. The cafeteria could barely accommodate 100 people at the same time and therefore presented a problem when meetings were held at the headquarters. Since the earlier suggestion to include a cafeteria in the new building had unfortunately been abandoned, it was necessary to consider improvements to the existing cafeteria. Furthermore, the conference room required additional seats and other improvements, since the number of meetings to be held at Santiago was expected to increase.

3. There was also a problem of transportation between Santiago and the ECLA building: the Secretariat should approach the Santiago municipal authorities with a view to securing the extension of public transportation to serve the headquarters.

4. Mr. BENDER (United States of America), referring to the Secretary-General's report and the report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed United Nations building in Santiago, Chile, said that a question of substance had arisen, namely, whether the United Nations should continue to house the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and if so, for how long and

on what terms. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the question must be resolved before new construction in Santiago could be approved. However, it took the view that the question was so important that the results of the study recommended by the Advisory Committee should be reported to the General Assembly for decision at its twenty-seventh session; until then, no funds should be appropriated for new construction in Santiago. That course would be in line with the procedure suggested by his delegation with respect to new construction in New York, namely, that no funds should be appropriated until there was a firm decision to proceed with construction. Accordingly, his delegation could not support the inclusion in section 7 of an appropriation of \$500,000 for new construction in Santiago.

5. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there had been nearly three years' delay in the construction of the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva with the result that costs had more than doubled as compared with the initial estimate. The explanation was simple: first, there was a continuation of the inadmissible practice of introducing major changes, involving considerable financial implications, into a project approved by the General Assembly. Many of those changes had received the prior approval of neither the General Assembly nor the Advisory Committee. Over \$600,000 in extra costs had been incurred in order to "enhance the aesthetics" of the building: the material of the panels for the faces had been changed and the whole structure had been moved 20 yards, with resulting complications. No strict control had been exercised over the progress of construction work, while there had been repeated delays due to the late submission of drawings by the architects and engineers, lack of manpower and the failure to estimate steel requirements correctly.

6. His delegation was surprised that consideration was being given to the request for an increase in fees payable to the architects and engineers, who were themselves largely responsible for the delays and the increased cost of construction. It fully endorsed the Advisory Committee's reservations on that matter.

7. Earlier, the Advisory Committee and certain Member States had requested the Secretary-General to ensure that further cost increases were avoided and to take the necessary measures to protect the United Nations from consequences for which it was not responsible; however, that request had not been heeded. It was now expected that construction would be completed by the middle of 1973, as compared with the original date of May 1970. From the original estimate of \$15 million, costs had now risen to \$29.4 million, and if account was taken of the interest on

the loan and the upward revaluation of the Swiss franc, the total cost reached \$33.7 million.

8. His delegation firmly believed that the Secretariat must ensure the strictest economy and the speediest completion of the construction work. Furthermore, it considered that supplementary expenditure on the construction work both in Geneva and Santiago, Chile, should be met from the 1972 budget—in other words, not from supplementary contributions from Member States but from the unused provision of \$2 million in the 1971 budget which had originally been intended for the new construction in New York. If the requests for supplementary expenditure on the construction work at Geneva (A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2 and 1390 and Corr.1) were put to the vote, his delegation would abstain.

9. With regard to the proposed new building in Santiago, his delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the understanding that \$500,000 would be met from the unused \$2 million to which he had just referred.

10. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) paid a tribute to the generosity shown by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (A/C.5/1392, para. 2) in transferring to the United Nations the title to the existing buildings occupied by the United Nations at Addis Ababa, to the lands on which they stood and to an additional plot of land for new construction. His delegation looked upon the sum of \$6.2 million earmarked for the construction project at Addis Ababa (*ibid.*, para. 11) as an investment for peace and progress and the project had the full support of his Government. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report on the matter (A/8408/Add.8) that any delay in completion of the project might result, at a time of rising prices, in the estimates being exceeded. In that connexion, his delegation had in mind the high costs resulting from certain misunderstandings over the plans for the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva.

11. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), in response to a question raised by the representative of Chile at the previous meeting, said that the proposal to make the new building earthquake-resistant had been one originally submitted by the College of Architects at Santiago, which had participated in the competition for the original construction project, and had therefore been included in the plans for the new building.

12. With regard to the question raised by the representative of the Philippines, he pointed out that the Santiago building was intended to serve as ECLA headquarters, rather than as a conference centre; hence the limited accommodation. Additional meetings held from time to time would be provided for on an *ad hoc* basis.

13. Replying to the question raised by the representatives of the USSR and Kenya, he said every effort would be made to ensure that the construction project was completed within the level of appropriations for 1972 and within the original time-limit.

14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that a vote be taken on the various proposals before the Committee.

EXTENSION OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA  
(concluded) (A/8408/ADD.10, A/C.5/1389 AND  
CORR.1 AND 2)

*The recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.10, paras. 25 and 26) were adopted by 61 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.*

15. The CHAIRMAN said he assumed that the Fifth Committee agreed to the suggestion of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 23 of its report (A/8408/Add.10) for the establishment of a small *ad hoc* committee to give guidance during the remaining stages of the Palais des Nations project.

*It was so decided.*

PROGRAMME OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF AND  
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PALAIS DES NATIONS,  
GENEVA (concluded) (A/8408/ADD.10, A/C.5/1390  
AND CORR.1)

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the suggestion of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 7 of its report (A/8408/Add.10), and should recommend to the Assembly that it: (a) authorize the Secretary-General to continue with the programme, at an estimated cost of \$6,773,847; and (b) authorize an appropriation of \$1,238,000 under section 7 chapter VII for 1972. He suggested that the Committee might also wish to draw the Assembly's attention to the observations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 4 to 6 of its report.

*The suggestion of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.10, para. 7) was adopted by 61 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee's decision be reflected in an appropriately worded draft resolution to be included in the Committee's report to the General Assembly on that item.

*It was so decided.*

UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN SANTIAGO, CHILE  
(concluded) (A/8408/ADD.11, A/C.5/1396)

18. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of its report (A/8408/Add.11).

*The Advisory Committee's recommendations were adopted by 72 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee's decision be reflected in an appropriately worded draft resolution for inclusion in its report to the General Assembly.

*It was so decided.*

UNITED NATIONS BUILDINGS IN BANGKOK AND  
ADDIS ABABA (*concluded*) (A/8408/ADD.8, A/C.5/1392)

20. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it should (a) take note of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1392); (b) express its gratitude to the host Governments; (c) take note of the observations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 3 of its report (A/8408/Add.8); (d) agree to modify the schedule of budgetary payments for the two projects endorsed in General Assembly resolution 2745 (XXV); and (e) approve the new schedule for financing the two projects as set forth in paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report.

*It was so decided.*

21. The CHAIRMAN said that an appropriately worded draft resolution on the question would be included in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION (*concluded*)\*  
(A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/L.1063, A/C.5/L.1064/REV.1,  
A/C.5/L.1071)

22. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation took the view that the Committee should pay special attention to the question of Headquarters premises at the current session since its decisions on that subject exerted considerable influence on the work of the Organization.

23. At the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under the heavy pressure of many other important questions with which the Committee still had to deal, it had been compelled to consider the question of new construction in New York towards the very end of the session. Furthermore, it had received only one proposal for the solution of the space shortage, and had no choice but to approve or reject that proposal. It had not been provided with information on alternative solutions and consequently could not even compare the advantages and disadvantages of various possible locations for the proposed new construction, despite the fact that many delegations had drawn attention to the numerous negative factors affecting the work of the Organization and of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. Furthermore, an unjustified enthusiasm had been created in the Committee over the allegedly extremely favourable terms for financing the proposed construction in New York, although the Committee had been fully aware of more favourable offers made in the past by certain Governments regarding accommodation for secretariats of other international organizations. He wished to draw attention in that connexion to the pressure that could be exerted on the Committee when the interests of certain countries were affected. The General Assembly had accordingly authorized the Secretary-General to proceed with the execution of the project despite the obscure financial arrangements, and the results of such a decision could easily have been foreseen. Many delegations had voted in favour of the new construction on condition that the factors adversely affecting the work of Permanent Missions would be eliminated; it was significant, in that connexion, to note that the problem of security of missions had now reached a critical stage.

\* Resumed from the 1461st meeting.

24. In his statement at the 1444th meeting, the United States representative had left no room for hope that the United States contribution would be forthcoming; nor could he state whether those funds would be available in the future. In view of the recent decision by the United States Congress not to make the contribution to the construction project, there was no justification for assuming that the Congress would authorize the appropriation in 1972. At that same meeting, the United States representative had stated that it would be advisable to abandon, for the time being, any plans for construction at Headquarters; furthermore, the Controller had said that in his view the prospects for the 1969 plan were remote. His delegation therefore took the view that the Secretary-General should be authorized to discontinue the execution of the plan, and that the postponement of action as proposed in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063 was unjustified and could not be supported. Furthermore, the discussion on the question indicated that many delegations that had voted in favour of the new construction had already regretted that decision. Any decision taken by the Committee should reflect the present situation and make it possible to work out alternative solutions and concrete proposals. Failure to clarify the situation regarding the unrealistic plan for the new construction, might hamper the preparation of alternative solutions.

25. The proposal for a limited construction in New York to solve the space shortage could not be supported by his delegation, which, like the delegations of Cuba, Algeria and Upper Volta, advocated decentralization. In that connexion, the new construction in Geneva, Santiago (Chile), Bangkok and Addis Ababa might alleviate the situation to some extent. The new offices at Geneva could accommodate certain services now located at Headquarters, particularly those engaged in activities closely related to the specialized agencies. His delegation greatly regretted that the report on the relocation of units of the Secretariat would not be available until 1972; the Secretariat should be requested to expedite that report.

26. The accommodation problem had been aggravated by the steady growth in the number of unjustified posts in the Secretariat, and he regretted that his delegation's proposal to freeze the number of posts at the 1971 level had not received sufficient support.

27. He hoped that delegations which advocated decentralization would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1.

28. Mr. FERWINSKI (United States of America) proposed that the \$2 million appropriated for 1971 under section 7 for the proposed new construction at Headquarters should be applied against section 7 of the 1972 estimates, and the sum of \$1 million allocated for new construction at Headquarters in the estimates for 1972 should be deleted. Since the new construction in New York evidently could not begin in 1972, that seemed the best course. His proposals were similar to those in operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, but they were being submitted separately by the United States because that draft resolution suggested, *inter alia*, an intention to bar new construction in New York in the future, a position the United States could not support.

29. He would vote for draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063, proposing that the question of new construction and major alterations at Headquarters should be postponed until the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly after submission of a detailed study of the situation by the Secretary-General.

30. He felt that as a member of the United States Congress, he should warn the Committee not to assume, from what they read in the press, that there was any move in Congress to renege on its basic obligations to the United Nations. In 1972 the Administration would, as in the past, request funds for the United Nations Headquarters building, and those funds might be forthcoming. He believed that although there had recently been an anti-United Nations mood in Congress, it had now been dissipated.

31. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/L.1071, proposing that a maximum amount of \$10,000 from the surplus voluntary funds of the World Youth Assembly should be spent on a mural for the United Nations Headquarters in New York to commemorate the World Youth Assembly. It had been heartening to see the gathering at Headquarters in the spring of 1970 of young people from over a hundred countries, representing many different ideologies and political systems. Those young people, who would shape the future, all upheld the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or they would not have chosen Headquarters as the site of their meeting. While some regarded modern youth as too radical, it should be recognized that some degree of non-conformity was inevitable if they were ever to break away from the antiquated patterns of the past.

32. In 1970, fears had been expressed that the World Youth Assembly might result in a deficit, and he had accordingly co-operated with the Secretariat and the Committee on the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations to arrange for a youth medal and a youth poster to sell to visitors to the United Nations. He had been informed that those projects must have sponsors or the funds would go into the regular budget, and UNICEF and the United Nations International School had accordingly sponsored them. The arrangements were that the funds would go first to meet the World Youth Assembly deficit, and that any surplus would go to the two sponsors. He understood that the amount received currently stood at about \$69,000, and might well be \$100,000 by 1972.

33. He accordingly wished to propose a third step to commemorate the World Youth Assembly, in addition to the medal and poster: the painting of a mural at Headquarters. Now that the deficit had been covered and there was a surplus, he thought \$10,000 could be spared for that purpose. Many Member States and non-governmental organizations had given, for example, paintings and sculptures to Headquarters, and in some cases those gifts had been accepted without prior official consultation with the Member States concerned. It would therefore not be inappropriate for the Member States themselves to decide to allocate the small sum of \$10,000, from surplus voluntary funds, for a commemorative mural. The Secretary-General had agreed that the proposal had merit, but had considered that authority should be obtained from some intergovernmental organ. It had therefore been

decided to submit the proposal to the Fifth Committee under the heading of Headquarters accommodation.

34. A mural of the type proposed, by a reputable artist, would normally cost about \$40,000, but Mr. Lumen Winters had consented to do it for a modest fee. As the designer of the youth medal, he had been responsible for generating revenue of some \$70,000. It was to be hoped there would be no opposition to spending the small sum of \$10,000 on what many delegations considered a worthy cause, and that those who did not wish to support the proposal would abstain from voting instead of voting against it. The Controller would be able to assure the Committee that no funds from the regular budget would be committed.

35. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the Saudi Arabian proposal was highly original; the draft resolution did not indicate whether a particular artist was to be commissioned or a competition was to be held, and whether the artist's work would be judged either by a special committee or by the United Nations Arts Committee, consisting of leading figures from the art world and representatives of the Secretariat.

36. He rather doubted that young people, who lived in the present and had their eyes on the future, were in favour of monuments and memorials; they were more concerned with the relief of human misery and the elimination of social injustice than with the commemoration of past events.

37. A similar proposal had been submitted by the Saudi Arabian representative to the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations a few months earlier; it had not prospered, and he understood that the profits from the sales of the youth medal would be divided between UNICEF and the United Nations International School. He expressed appreciation for the initiative taken by the Saudi Arabian representative in suggesting the medal, which had proved profitable for the Organization.

38. The expenses of the World Youth Assembly, other than conference servicing costs, had been met from the voluntary contributions of Governments and private sources and had included air transportation provided by Governments and airlines free of charge. He understood that the books had been kept open for late payments until the end of June 1971, but had now been closed, leaving a credit balance of about \$30,000, which would either revert to the United Nations as general income, or go to UNICEF and the International School. Thus, the Committee was in effect being asked to allocate up to \$10,000 from the financial resources of the United Nations. The fact that there had been voluntary contributions to the World Youth Assembly might no longer be very relevant. If the Committee decided to approve the expenditure, it would still remain to be decided who should be commissioned to do the mural, whether it would be accepted and where it would be placed. It might be better if such a gift were made by a Member State which had not already made a gift of art to the United Nations. Gifts had also been made by non-governmental organizations, individuals, anonymous donors, and in one case, by Secretariat employees. There was no instance where the United Nations had used its own funds for a work of art on its own premises. If the gift was

made by a Member Government or a non-governmental organization, the United Nations Committee of Arts would still have to decide whether to accept it. The Secretary-General could not, any more than the great museums and art galleries of the world, accept everything that was offered to the United Nations as a work of art.

39. If some delegations did not wish the surplus voluntary funds to revert to the general funds of the United Nations, the best solution would be for them to go to the International School, which was a living monument to youth, particularly in view of the urgent appeal for funds the Fifth Committee had heard from the Chef de Cabinet at the 1461st meeting of the Fifth Committee.

40. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that he was in sympathy with the motives underlying the Saudi Arabian proposal because he recognized that the hopes of the United Nations must to a great extent be founded on the youth of the world. However, he believed that the surplus funds from the World Youth Assembly could be better used for young people, and associated himself with the conclusions of the Canadian representative.

41. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that much as he sympathized with the aims of the Saudi Arabian proposal, he agreed with the Canadian representative that there were better ways of using the surplus funds of the World Youth Assembly, and that both the International School, which badly needed funds, and UNICEF should be considered. It would be better to give money to two United Nations activities concerned with education and children than to spend it on a mural.

42. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that Ghana strongly believed in the useful role that young people could and should play both in their own countries and in the United Nations. The Saudi Arabian representative had submitted a similar proposal to the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations and it had been rejected.

43. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), speaking on a point of order, said that his first proposal had been left in suspension by the Committee concerned; it had not been rejected.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that the Saudi Arabian proposal now before the Fifth Committee would be considered in the light of the discussion in the Committee.

45. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that the Saudi Arabian proposal that had failed to prosper in the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations was now being revived in the Fifth Committee. Ghana's position was unchanged; it was that the surplus funds should go to UNICEF or the International School. That would be a way of helping young people to fulfil the role the United Nations expected them to play.

46. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to requests for a statement of the Secretariat's views on the Saudi Arabian proposal, said that the cost of the mural would be met from a special account opened for the receipt of voluntary contributions to the World Youth Assembly. As of the closing of that account in mid-1971, there had been an

amount of \$9,000 of unpaid Government pledges which, for the most part, would probably not be easy to collect, and a cash surplus of \$24,000 derived wholly from non-governmental contributors—private individuals, companies, foundations and the like.

47. There was a question whether that cash surplus should revert to Governments in the form of credits against the assessments of Member States. The Secretariat would regard that as an inappropriate procedure whose morality might be called into question and believed that the surplus should be disposed of in a way fully consonant with the purposes for which it had been contributed in the first place. The Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations had taken no final decision on the question. It had, however, directed that receipts from the sale of medals and posters issued in connexion with the World Youth Assembly should be allocated to the International School and UNICEF and that had been done, the lion's share going to the School. The Secretary-General considered that a mural would be in keeping with the purposes of the non-governmental contributions to the special account but felt that some proper legislative authority, namely, the Fifth Committee, should be consulted. The Secretary-General had so advised the representative of Saudi Arabia, who had accordingly introduced draft resolution A/C.5/L.1071. The amount involved was some \$8,000-\$10,000 and the issue was open as to how the balance of the \$24,000 cash surplus in the special account should be used. There was room for a difference of opinion regarding priorities but the question was one which, in normal circumstances, would be within the Secretary-General's discretion.

48. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation enthusiastically supported the Saudi Arabian proposal; a mural would be a suitable and practical tribute to world youth, the leaders of the society of tomorrow, and an appropriate addition to the valuable collection of works of art at Headquarters. The Controller's statement that a mural would be in keeping with the purposes of the non-governmental contributions had confirmed his delegation in its intention to vote for the Saudi Arabian proposal. It had always recognized the importance of youth activities and had contributed to the World Youth Assembly.

49. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) recalled that the General Assembly had recently adopted resolution 2770 (XXVI), which concerned youth and its participation in social development and emphasized the awareness of the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the need to increase their contribution to the education of youth and to enlarge their programmes directed to youth. The proposed mural would serve as a constant reminder to youth that it, too, should be actively engaged in social and economic development, the promotion of human rights and the achievement of world peace, justice and progress. His delegation was heartened to find that the mural was to be financed from surplus funds and would have no difficulty in supporting the Saudi Arabian draft resolution. He proposed that, in the first preambular paragraph, the words "in commemoration" should be replaced by "within the framework" because the World Youth Assembly had been only part of the commemoration of the Organization's twenty-fifth anniversary. He further proposed that, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "and that such understanding may"

should be replaced by “designed to”, to make the tenor of the text more positive.

50. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) accepted the Indonesian amendments.

51. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway), turning to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063, of which his delegation was a sponsor, said that he had little to add to the Brazilian representative's introductory remarks (1459th meeting) but would emphasize that the proposal was procedural rather than substantive. It did not in any way involve the question of how to use the appropriation of \$2 million under section 7 pertaining to new construction and expansion of premises at Headquarters; the Committee's freedom to decide that would be unimpaired by its adoption. The text merely proposed that any substantive decision on the question of Headquarters accommodation should be deferred until all data necessary for such a decision was available. The data required included the studies proposed in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV). The decision would have far-reaching, long-term effects and certainly could not be taken lightly.

52. The Saudi Arabian proposal was attractive. Much lip service was paid to the need to provide for the greater participation of youth in solving contemporary problems and the World Youth Assembly had been a step in that direction. A mural would be a token of the wish to associate the Organization with a segment of the world population which was soon to assume responsibility for it.

53. Mr. AL-QANDI (Kuwait) said that his delegation supported the idea of a symbolic mural and would vote in favour of the Saudi Arabian proposal. The expenditure involved was small and would in any case be met from a cash surplus.

54. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that while the Saudi Arabian proposal was attractive, it raised certain difficulties for his delegation. He was by no means sure that the Fifth Committee was competent to decide on the disposal of funds which had been contributed voluntarily. The proper forum for such a decision would have been the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, after consultation with the contributors to the fund. His delegation would prefer that the cash surplus should be given to UNICEF or the International School. Moreover the mural itself raised a number of questions. When would it be completed? Did the \$10,000 represent a fee or materials? Where was it to be placed? Would it be subject to tender? His delegation would abstain in the vote on the proposal because of its views concerning the Committee's competence in the matter.

55. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that he fully agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that a decision on the disposal of the cash surplus was outside the Committee's competence. He also agreed with the comments of the representatives of Canada, Ghana, Denmark and the United States. At the same time, his delegation understood the motives underlying the Saudi Arabian proposal. His Government recognized the importance of stressing the role of youth and had, in fact, made a financial contribution to the World Youth Assembly. He

felt sure that no Government which had contributed funds for that purpose expected them to be spent in part on a mural. The decision should have been taken by the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations but, in the circumstances, he hoped that the vote on the Saudi Arabian proposal would be delayed to enable his delegation to obtain instructions from its Government.

56. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that his delegation supported the Saudi Arabian draft resolution. The International School had benefited from the medals issued in connexion with the World Youth Assembly and a mural would be a permanent reminder of the role of youth.

57. Mr. BENKIRANE (Morocco) expressed surprise that so small a sum as \$10,000 should have led to such lengthy debate. The draft resolution was entirely appropriate and consonant with the ideals of the Organization. His delegation was pleased to support it.

58. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that his delegation understood the intention of the Saudi Arabian proposal but hesitated to support it for three reasons. First, it would be well to wait until a decision had been taken regarding new construction at Headquarters so that a suitable place for the mural could be found. Second, having regard to the Organization's current financial situation a mural would, after all, be a luxury. Third, the project should be viewed from the standpoint of youth and not from that of the “establishment”. Young people wanted not monuments but schools, hospitals, houses and food for the hungry. If the funds were donated to the International School, he felt sure that youth would approve.

59. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation would prefer to have the Committee express appreciation of the World Youth Assembly by allowing the surplus funds to be used for the purposes of the International School. He therefore could not support the Saudi Arabian proposal.

60. Mr. MARRON (Spain) expressed support of the Saudi Arabian proposal, endorsed the remarks of the Colombian and Indonesian representatives and welcomed the Controller's statement regarding the financing of the mural.

61. Mr. GUPTA (India) associated his delegation with the Norwegian representative's remarks on the Saudi Arabian proposal.

62. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that he was currently preparing a scheme to generate \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the United Nations International School.

63. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee was free to take a decision on the Saudi Arabian proposal because the Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations no longer existed and, in any case, the General Assembly itself would have to take the final decision. He therefore invited the Committee to vote on the Saudi Arabian draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1071).

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 27 votes to 19, with 32 abstentions.*

64. Mr. NAUDY (France), turning to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063 on Headquarters accommodation, acknowledged the conciliatory nature and moderate tone of the text, which dealt with a controversial subject. He recalled that his delegation had abstained in the vote on General Assembly resolution 2618 (XXIV), which had been a compromise. Like many other delegations, it had not formally opposed the financial package proposed in that resolution but that did not mean that it favoured the project, having regard to the need for decentralization, the circumstances peculiar to New York City and certain unsatisfactory technical aspects. The financial package had not been realized and even the United States delegation considered it unlikely that it would come to anything in the near future. The project should therefore be abandoned; any other solution would be unrealistic.

65. In the circumstances, draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063 was unrealistic in that paragraph 2 requested a study of the prospects of executing the project referred to in resolution 2618 (XXIV). Draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, on the contrary, took a clear stand on that point and he was, moreover, grateful that in paragraph 4, the sponsors had requested the Secretary-General to submit the studies requested of him in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 2618 (XXIV). His delegation awaited with interest the outcome of those studies—which were also required under the terms of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063.

66. For reasons which his delegation had stated on many occasions, the question was one of great importance. His delegation was sure that, on the impending completion of the extension of the Palais des Nations at Geneva, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Administrative Management Service would have an opportunity to contribute to the studies in question. Their participation was an assurance for his delegation that the studies would be carried out with the maximum efficiency and impartiality.

67. Mr. RUIZ DE GAMBOA (Chile) said that, in reviewing the background of resolution 2618 (XXIV), his delegation had been surprised to note that, practically from the outset, the Headquarters accommodation had been too small, with the result that alterations had repeatedly been needed to provide more space. Obviously, it could not have been otherwise as the original premises had been designed for only 70 delegations. The current membership was almost double that figure and might reach 150 in the near future. The same situation had prevailed in the case of the Headquarters staff, which had increased from 2,664 to its current level of 3,890, while United Nations programmes had grown to the point where premises had to be rented outside the Secretariat building. In 1963, the Secretary-General had proposed a project for the expansion of Headquarters, which the General Assembly had deferred. It had been postponed again in 1966 to allow time for studies of a proposal by a group headed by the Mayor of New York City for a building to the south of the Headquarters premises. In 1968, the Secretary-General had explained that the estimated cost of such an undertaking would be \$50 million. In 1969, \$250,000 had been allocated for a detailed technical study of the project. In 1970, the estimated cost had risen to \$73,399,000. The latest information from the Secretary-General was that, excluding

the cost of the site, the estimated cost would be \$80 million (A/C.5/1381, para. 2). The project had been contingent upon a firm commitment in the form of a financial package which had never materialized. The Organization thus found itself in the same situation as in 1963. His delegation was discouraged to note, therefore, that there were delegations which were proposing yet another postponement of the project for the construction of new accommodation at Headquarters.

68. Given the background of the project and having regard to the fact that the estimated cost had reached \$80 million, his delegation wholeheartedly supported draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 and, in particular, the provisions in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of that text.

69. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that it was sad, in the light of resolution 2618 (XXIV), to consider the time and money that had been wasted on plans that would never be carried out, while the situation regarding office space at Headquarters had steadily deteriorated. Although his delegation had not supported that resolution, feeling that further construction in a city beset by so many problems would be unwise, it could not but express surprise at the reliance placed by the Secretariat on uncertain plans and at its failure to consider alternative solutions. Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 2618 (XXIV) remained unimplemented and it would be difficult to make up the time that had been lost. However, there was the advantage that the United Nations would be able to make plans for construction in more suitable cities and also save funds at a time when economies were necessary. His delegation accordingly supported the proposals contained in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1.

70. Mr. ESONO MICA (Equatorial Guinea) said that draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, of which his delegation was a sponsor, sought to set before the Committee the series of events that had resulted in the non-implementation of resolution 2618 (XXIV). It would be interesting to know, through the Secretariat, the views of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNICEF on the ill-fated Headquarters expansion project and any decisions they proposed to take in the light of the new situation created by the withdrawal of one of the parties that was to have participated in the financing of the project. It was important for the developing countries to know the immediate plans of those agencies for the funds which had been earmarked for the project and which would otherwise have been spent on projects to promote development and child welfare in the context of the Second United Nations Development Decade. His delegation would welcome some information on that point.

71. Those in favour of reconsidering the project at the twenty-seventh session seemed not to take account of the statement made by the United States representative at the Committee's 1444th meeting. If the United States Government expected construction costs to increase in the United States, a more substantial contribution to the project would be required from the agencies concerned, and hence from Member States, and it therefore seemed logical to assume that, as time went by, the possibilities of carrying out the project would become increasingly remote. His delegation felt that draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 reflected the



views of the majority of delegations and also provided a realistic analysis of the situation. It therefore hoped that it would be adopted by a large majority.

72. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) recalled that in the general discussion his delegation had spoken in favour of postponing any non-essential expenditure and approving projects that would be of benefit to the developing countries. The two draft resolutions before the Committee represented commendable efforts to find a solution and were in agreement at least on one point—namely that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit to the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly the studies and enquiry called for in resolution 2618 (XXIV). The idea that consideration of the matter should be postponed was fully compatible with his delegation's position. The matter of most concern to his delegation, however, was not the deletion of the budget items in question but the tripartite nature of the financing of new construction. It was true that the United States Government had not specified when its contribution would be forthcoming but his delegation thought that there was hope that it would not be too long delayed. Moreover, before the Committee took a final decision on the question, it must know the opinions of the other parties involved and he therefore proposed that a vote on both draft resolutions should be deferred until the Committee had been officially informed of the views of UNDP and UNICEF.

73. Mr. GONCHARENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 was very timely and reflected the actual state of affairs regarding the question of Headquarters accommodation. From the financial viewpoint, the project for the expansion of Headquarters in New York was not feasible and, from other points of view, it was now undesirable. The \$2 million appropriation should accordingly be used for construction work in other cities, such as Santiago, Chile, or Geneva.

74. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 39 votes to 20, with 11 abstentions.*

75. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in view of the decision just taken by the Committee, it might be superfluous to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, which differed from the resolution adopted only in the provision concerning the \$2 million budgetary appropriation.

76. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba) considered that there were a number of substantive points on which the two texts differed. He therefore requested that the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1) co-sponsored by his delegation should be put to the vote.

77. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) supported the request of the representative of Cuba.

78. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he could agree that there were a number of differences between the two texts. That meant that the Committee had had a clear option before it and it had already made its choice.

79. Mr. NAUDY (France) also considered that the two texts did not cover exactly the same ground. He agreed with the representatives of Cuba and Poland that draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 should be put to the vote.

80. Mr. TRAORE (Ivory Coast) pointed out that if draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1 was adopted, it would not be possible to implement operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063 which had been adopted.

81. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) felt that the two draft resolutions were contradictory in substance. He therefore proposed that the Committee should decide by a vote whether or not to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1.

82. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba), referring to the point raised by the representative of the Ivory Coast, said that if the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, the situation at the twenty-seventh session would be very simple. The General Assembly would complete its consideration of the question after having clarified the issues arising as a result of the United States Government's decision to withdraw from the financing of the Headquarters expansion project. It was only logical that the United Nations should consider the consequences of that new development before taking a decision. A vote should therefore be taken on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1.

83. The CHAIRMAN said that he was still of the opinion that if the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1, it would be nullifying its earlier decision, contained in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063. In accordance with rule 132 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, therefore, he invited the Committee to decide whether or not to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1.

*The Committee decided, by 36 votes to 27, with 9 abstentions, not to vote on the draft resolution A/C.5/L.1064/Rev.1.*

84. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the United States proposal that the amount of \$1 million should be eliminated from the 1972 budget estimates under section 7 chapter I, and that the amount of \$2 million unspent in that chapter in 1971 should be applied to the estimates under chapters II to V of section 7 in 1972.

*The proposal was adopted by 42 votes to 5, with 19 abstentions.*

*The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 13, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1383 to 1385, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/L.1070, A/C.5/L.1072, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 14, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25, E/5038)

Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued)\* (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/L.1070, A/C.5/L.1072, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1)

1. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2. With the exception of the last preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 10, the wording was identical with that of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1. He explained the positions adopted by the sponsors after detailed discussion on the amendments which had been proposed.

2. He was especially grateful to the representative of Indonesia for his comments and suggestions. With regard to the last preambular paragraph, which the Indonesia representative had sought to clarify (1462nd meeting) by replacing the word "uniformity" by "co-ordination", the sponsors had felt that the best way to render the idea expressed in the paragraph would be to redraft it as follows:

"Stressing the need for maintaining central and direction in the implementation of information policies and guidelines,".

\* Resumed from the 1464th meeting.

He hoped that that change would satisfy the Indonesian representative. In operative paragraph 2, the Indonesian representative had suggested that the word "Decides" should be replaced by "Affirms" and that the last clause of the paragraph, which read "subject to such directives as the General Assembly has already given or may give from time to time", should be deleted. While the sponsors understood the reasons for the changes requested, they had felt that they did not quite reflect their position; they attached great importance to the clause and did not wish to delete it. The Indonesian representative had also commented on paragraphs 7, 8 and 10. He had not quite understood what the Indonesian representative wanted to insert in paragraph 7. Apparently, there had been some question in his mind whether the "highly qualified Professional staff" to which the paragraph referred would also be qualified in the field of information. Of course, Professional staff which was highly qualified in the field of economics, for example, would not necessarily be experts in the field of information, but it was not absolutely necessary to stress that point because it was not essential.

3. Although paragraph 8 had been criticized by both the representative of Indonesia and the representative of the Netherlands, the sponsors wanted to retain the present wording. The Indonesian representative had suggested that the Secretary-General should be requested to set up an inquiry to unearth all the shortcomings in the formulation and execution of information programmes and activities. However, the sponsors did not wish to give the impression that they were blaming anyone and preferred to say "any shortcomings that may persist . . .". Those were the words normally used by the General Assembly when it wanted the Secretary-General to take measures in any given field.

4. In paragraph 10, the sponsors had retained part of the original text contained in document A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 but, in order to inject the idea expressed in the last preambular paragraph, they had found it necessary to expand paragraph 10. In order to take account of views expressed publicly or privately, they had cited resolution 2567 (XXIV) in the new text and deleted the word "immediate". He thanked all the delegations which had taken an interest in the drafting of the paragraph and hoped that the text worked out by the sponsors would receive wide support in a spirit of conciliation; they were unable to accept any further amendment or deletion.

5. The sponsors wished to explain why they could not agree to insert the amendments submitted by Czechoslovakia (A/C.5/L.1070) and the Byelorussian SSR (A/C.5/L.1072); while the objective of the latter was commendable, the General Assembly could not infringe Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stipulated

that the staff should be appointed by the Secretary-General and that due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The General Assembly issued directives to the Secretary-General in order to ensure an equitable geographical distribution of staff but it had refrained in the past from instructing the Secretary-General to achieve a balance in the geographical distribution of staff in any particular department of the Secretariat. That would create too many difficulties. On the other hand, he hoped, of course, that the Office of Public Information would comprise a highly qualified staff capable of discharging the mandate conferred on it.

6. The sponsors had considered that the first four amendments submitted by the representative of Czechoslovakia (A/C.5/L.1070) were not appropriate because they believed that it was absolutely essential to adopt a firm decision at the current session on the Secretary-General's recommendations and conclusions and because they had already agreed to insert a reference in their draft to the Consultative Panel on Public Information. The amendment to operative paragraph 9, proposed in the interest of greater clarity, was not necessary because the Secretary-General could not in any case allocate funds to UNCTAD and UNIDO unless they had been approved by the General Assembly. With regard to the amendment proposed to paragraph 8, the sponsors considered that the idea of information in the political field was already included in that paragraph.

7. Mr. FARAH (Somalia) said that his delegation was gratified to find that the new text of the draft resolution took into account some of the proposals it had made at the 1462nd meeting. Nevertheless, there was one proposal which had not been taken into account, which he considered especially important and which would add a paragraph that might be worded as follows:

*"Requests the Secretary-General to ascertain and report on the publicity and promotional needs of the various bodies of the United Nations which have undertaken universal causes approved by the General Assembly in order that these needs may be taken into account when considering the budgetary requirements for the Office of Public Information for 1973".<sup>1</sup>*

The Consultative Panel on Public Information, which was to be convened before the twenty-seventh session, would discuss the precise nature of the specific needs of the bodies serviced by the Office of Public Information. The paragraph could be inserted in the draft resolution as operative paragraph 6.

8. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for his comments on the amendments put forward by the Indonesian delegation. He had explained what the sponsors meant, in the last preambular paragraph, by the words "central control and direction". For his own part, he would prefer the words "central direction and co-ordination", but could accept the wording as it now stood. His delegation also agreed that the word "*Decides*" should be retained in operative para-

graph 2, but felt that the words "do not need to be revised, amended or enlarged" were superfluous and would like them deleted. The words "subject to" towards the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "taking account of" or "in line with". With regard to paragraph 7, he shared the opinion of the representative of Colombia that the words "in the field of information" should be added after the words "highly qualified Professional staff". His delegation was prepared to accept the present wording of paragraph 8. In paragraph 10, however, it would like to delete the words "to review the present administrative arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information" and to replace the words "central control and direction" by "central direction and co-ordination". It supported the amendment proposed by the representative of Somalia.

9. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) thanked the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 for having taken into account to some extent the amendments submitted in document A/C.5/L.1069. In a spirit of conciliation and in order to expedite the debate, the sponsors of those amendments had decided to withdraw them, provided that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 agreed to replace the entire clause "with a view to ensuring central control and direction in the implementation of information policies and guidelines and thereby enabling the Office" in operative paragraph 10 by the words "in order to enable it". That would be tantamount, to some extent, to reverting to the previous text. He believed that there was a contradiction between that last part of the paragraph and General Assembly resolutions 595 (VI) and 2567 (XXIV), which had been mentioned in the first part of the paragraph in which it had been stated that "the mobilization of public opinion has to be the responsibility mainly of national bodies" and that "the role of the organizations of the United Nations system will be to assist the national information media". It was impossible to apply the same information policy to all countries because every country had its own character, which must be taken into account. In that connexion, the information centres constituted a natural link between Governments and the Office of Public Information.

10. Mr. PICK (Canada) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for his efforts to reach a consensus in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2. The new paragraph 6 of the draft dispelled the apprehensions felt by some delegations about the use which might be made of the Consultative Panel on Public Information. The Czechoslovak amendment to operative paragraph 6 (A/C.5/L.1070, para. 4) would place too heavy a burden on the Secretary-General, and he himself preferred the existing text of the draft resolution. As a sponsor of the amendments in document A/C.5/L.1069, he approved of the Netherlands representative's suggestion. The expression "central control and direction"—which occurred twice in the text, in the fifth preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 10—seemed unsatisfactory, and he would prefer the expression "co-ordinated control" or "central co-ordination" or, better still, "control and co-ordination". He could, however, accept the expression "central control and direction", provided that that expression meant the authority given the Secretary-General under Article 97 of the Charter, which defined him as the "chief administrative officer of the

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/L.1073.

Organization". In that connexion, he referred to the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1151/Rev.3<sup>2</sup> concerning the dissemination of information and mobilization of public opinion relative to progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy, which the Second Committee had adopted at its 1429th meeting.

11. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) recalled that he had already stressed the need to modify the composition of the Consultative Panel on Public Information and that he had intended to submit a formal proposal to that end. That had been made unnecessary by paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, which met his point perfectly, but he reserved the right to carry out his intention if the draft resolution was not adopted. He was not opposed, in principle, to the Somali amendment.

12. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) considered that agreement had not yet been reached on the draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. He fully supported the Indonesian amendment to operative paragraph 7, which embodied an amendment already suggested by Colombia. It was essential for the Professional staff appointed to United Nations information centres to be information experts. Paragraph 7 in its existing form would sanction the policy of replacing the directors of the information centres, who were information experts, by UNDP resident representatives, who were not information experts. He had on several previous occasions criticized that dangerous policy, which would jeopardize the information services. Besides, paragraph 7 stressed the economic, social and political fields, whereas General Assembly resolution 13 (I) did not. Paragraph 7 thus contradicted paragraph 2, which confirmed the principles laid down in resolution 13 (I).

13. Furthermore, he had already pointed out (1456th meeting) that the first preambular paragraph mentioned only the report of the Secretary-General and the related reports of the Advisory Committee; the General Assembly should also take note of the statements made by the representatives of the Secretary-General in the Committee and the views expressed by delegations during the debate. He therefore proposed that the words "and the statements made by the representatives of the Secretary-General and by the delegations of Member countries during the discussion in the Fifth Committee on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities" should be inserted at the end of the first preambular paragraph. He also proposed that the words "as appropriate instruments for informing the peoples of the world about its objectives and activities" should be inserted at the end of the fourth preambular paragraph. Lastly, he proposed the insertion of a new preambular paragraph reading:

*"Recognizing the right of the Councils and the Main Committees of the General Assembly to make recommendations and advise the Secretary-General on public information"*.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 45, document A/8559, paras. 13 and 24, draft resolution I.

If those amendments<sup>3</sup> were not accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution, he would be unable to vote in favour of it.

14. Mr. GUPTA (India) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for his efforts to harmonize the different views. The new revision of the draft resolution took into account the concern expressed by a number of delegations, but he still had some reservations. He endorsed the Indonesian representative's comments on the last preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2. The last part of the latter paragraph seemed superfluous. He would also have liked paragraph 8 to be redrafted in more energetic terms and to stress the need to eliminate existing defects in the formulation and implementation of the programme of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, which did not correspond to what was expected of the Centre. He approved of the new paragraph proposed by Somalia, as amended by Indonesia.

15. With regard to paragraph 10, he supported the proposal of the Netherlands representative—who had spoken on behalf of the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.5/L.1069—but he would personally prefer the amendment suggested by Indonesia. It seemed undesirable to single out for review the present administrative arrangements for the Centre for Economic and Social Information, since that Centre was within the framework of the Office of Public Information and would therefore be subject to review at the same time as the Office was reorganized. At the same time, he recognized the considerable shortcomings in the work programme of the Centre.

16. Concerning the Colombian amendment to the first preambular paragraph, he saw no point in mentioning the statements by delegations, but it did seem useful to mention those by the representatives of the Secretary-General, particularly because those statements seemed to have modified and supplemented the Secretary-General's report.

17. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for having taken the wishes of the Philippine delegation into account by mentioning General Assembly resolution 2567 (XXIV) in operative paragraph 10 of the revised draft resolution. His delegation fully supported the Netherlands representative's comments on the wording of the end of paragraph 10; if the draft resolution was put to the vote in its present form, it would request a separate vote on that paragraph.

18. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia) agreed with the Chairman regarding the length of the debate on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities, which had lasted for three weeks because the Committee was trying to examine the substance of the problem, which did not fall within its terms of reference. The question should have been studied by a competent organ, whose main task would be to define the general rationale of United Nations information activities and to confirm or enlarge the basic principles and directives which governed the work programmes of the Office of Public Information, taking into account the political, economic

<sup>3</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/L.1076.

and technical changes which were taking place in the world. His delegation was grateful to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1968/Rev.2 for their spirit of co-operation and wished in particular to thank them for having inserted, in their successive revisions of the draft, paragraph 6, in which the General Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General should review the composition of the Consultative Panel on Public Information and requested him to convene the Panel before the twenty-seventh session to advise him on the information policies and activities of the United Nations. The new approach taken by the sponsors of the draft resolution came closer to the position of his delegation, which considered that the Assembly should hold a general debate to shed new light on the course to be followed by the Office of Public Information, so that the latter would be able to operate in the best possible conditions in the coming years.

19. His delegation could not oppose the revised draft resolution, which had many constructive features, but it nevertheless had general reservations which only a general debate in a competent body could dissipate. It felt that the new text of operative paragraph 2 contained a contradiction. The directives which might be given by the General Assembly, while not necessarily touching on the substance of the basic principles laid down in resolution 13 (I) and confirmed in resolution 595 (VI), might nevertheless modify or enlarge them in the light of current needs, so that they would remain as effective as possible. His delegation therefore preferred the text in the original draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068), which, while affirming that the basic principles would continue to be applied, left the door open for such new directives as the General Assembly might give in that sphere. His delegation would vote against paragraph 2 if it was put to a separate vote, and would abstain on the draft as a whole.

20. Mr. GONCHARENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted the statement by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, who had said that the idea underlying the amendment proposed by the Byelorussian delegation would be taken into consideration. In a spirit of conciliation, he would not press for a vote on that amendment.

21. Mr. FOSSEN (Norway) said that his delegation had followed the discussion on the Office of Public Information with the closest interest, in the hope that a compromise text acceptable to the majority of the Committee would evolve. It fully supported the oral amendment proposed by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the sponsors of the amendments in document A/C.5/L.1069. If that amendment was accepted, his delegation would have no difficulty in supporting the revised draft resolution submitted by the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania. His delegation wished to express its appreciation for the work done by the sponsors of the draft. Their flexibility and willingness to listen to other delegations' views had made it possible for a practical result to be reached at the end of a discussion on an extremely difficult question. His delegation was particularly happy with operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution whereby the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposals for the acquisition and replacement of equipment for 1972 and decided to consider at its twenty-seventh session

the balance of his programme. It also considered the decision in paragraph 5 to approve in principle the Secretary-General's proposal on the establishment of a regional production bureau as reasonable.

22. His delegation would vote against the draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union (A/C.5/L.1066), not because the draft was unacceptable in itself but because it had been superseded by that of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania. On the other hand, the amendment by the Byelorussian delegation (A/C.5/L.1072) would, in its view, impinge upon the Secretary-General's prerogatives and was therefore not acceptable. With regard to the oral amendment submitted by the representative of Somalia, he recalled that he had already said, in the general discussion on that item, that the innumerable demands made on the Office of Public Information by various United Nations bodies showed that what was really needed was strict adherence to the mandate of that Office. The various United Nations bodies should be more modest in their demands on the Office of Public Information, whose mandate had been laid down by the General Assembly.

23. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation had been very impressed by the considerable efforts of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania to achieve a consensus. Although it approved some parts of the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2), it still had some reservations on others—as did other delegations—and would abstain in the vote.

24. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, for it was essential that the Office of Public Information should have whatever resources it needed to continue its extremely useful work. It noted with satisfaction that the new operative paragraph 6 recommended that the Consultative Panel on Public Information should be revived. In his delegation's view, an effective Panel could be formed from experts in information work serving at permanent missions in New York. His delegation also hoped that the Panel would examine four fundamental considerations, namely, the need for uniformity in the structure of public information, co-ordination, the trend towards regionalization and the output of the Office. His delegation was convinced that the Consultative Panel would do very useful work and would prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session when, pursuant to paragraph 12 of the said draft resolution, the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolution.

25. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for his comments on the amendments proposed by his delegation (A/C.5/L.1070) and requested that, as the sponsors of the draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 had not accepted them, they should be put to the vote.

26. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) recalled that, after transferring the Centre for Economic and Social Information from the Office of Public Information to the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretary-General had replaced it within the framework of the Office. In the view of his delegation, the Centre for Economic and Social

Information had always belonged within the Office of Public Information. It had been transferred, essentially, because voluntary contributions were used to finance it. However, to place it under the Department for Economic and Social Affairs was counter to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 13 (I). As the arrangement had aroused strong opposition, the Centre had been replaced within the framework of the Office of Public Information, without, however, being entirely reintegrated with it. That was why the sponsors of the draft resolution were requesting central control and direction in the implementation of information policies and guidelines and were anxious to see that the wording of paragraph 10 was kept.

27. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) endorsed the comments of the representative of Pakistan.

28. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) recalled that, in June 1971 the Secretary-General had asked the Swedish Government for a voluntary contribution in order that the Centre for Economic and Social Information might complete its task relating to the mobilization of public opinion in support of the objectives and policies of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Swedish Government did not want to see the Centre for Economic and Social Information integrated with the Office of Public Information as other delegations had suggested, but wished it to keep its own identity.

29. Mr. GUPTA (India) pointed out that the voluntary contributions paid by Governments to certain services of the Secretariat could not and should not influence the orientation of their work. He did not believe that the programme of work of the Centre for Economic and Social Information had been in any way insidiously influenced by Governments which had paid contributions to the programme and to whom the Organization was extremely grateful. He was confident that the Secretary-General would ensure that no outside influences were brought to bear.

30. Mr. LOGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether the debate on the review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities was going to continue at the following meeting of the Committee or be closed.

31. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) expressed the hope that the oral amendments might be submitted in writing to the Committee before the vote.

32. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania for the considerable efforts he had made to accommodate the opinions expressed by the various delegations and announced that the Committee would vote on the question at its following meeting.

*First reading (continued) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.2 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES (*concluded*) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2 AND ADD.7, ADD.8, ADD.10 AND ADD.11, A/C.5/1381, A/C.5/1389 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1390 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396)

33. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to vote on an appropriation of \$9,565,000 for section 7 as a whole.

*The appropriation of \$9,565,000 for section 7 was approved by 70 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions in first reading.*

AGENDA ITEM 82

Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)\* (A/8482, A/8503, A/C.5/1363 and Add.1, A/C.5/1368, A/C.5/1375, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.23)

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (part I) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.23)*

34. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, pointed out that a new paragraph should be added following paragraph 5 of the draft report (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.23) to the effect that, in connexion with the review of the question of the Joint Inspection Unit at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the hope was expressed that the review might also take into account the question of the proliferation of organs concerned with investigation, control, co-ordination and inspection.

35. In the first sentence of paragraph 4 of the report the words "and 1455th" should be inserted before the word "meeting", which should be put in the plural, and in paragraph 6 the number "1454th" should be changed to "1455th".

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the text of the draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.23) as amended orally by the Rapporteur.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 1455th meeting.



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued) (for the A/... and A/C.5... documents, see the 1467th meeting; A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/L.1070, A/C.5/L.1072 to L.1076, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11 to 14, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.22, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25, E/5938)

Review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies and activities (continued) (A/8408/Add.4, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1066, A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, A/C.5/L.1069, A/C.5/L.1070, A/C.5/L.1072 to L.1076, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.10 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.18 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Director of the Budget Division to state the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 before the Committee took a decision on it.

2. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 were the same as those of the first revised version, which were analysed in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.24/Rev.1. They were estimated to be \$346,500 for 1972 and were connected with three recommendations which the Secretary-General had made in paragraph 261 of his report on the question under consideration (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1) and which related respectively to the preparation of publications (\$15,000), the translation and printing of the French edition of *Objective: Justice* (\$24,000) and the equipment replacement programme (\$307,500).

3. As to operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, which endorsed, *inter alia*, the proposal contained in subparagraph 261 (viii) of the Secretary-General's report relating to television programmes, which involved supplementing existing programmes with programmes better adapted to the needs of the developing countries which would be furnished to them free of charge, he said that the Secretary-General intended to act on that proposal in 1973. No expenditure had therefore been provided for in that respect in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

4. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 ac-

cepted the amendment proposed by Somalia (A/C.5/L.1073), subject to certain changes. In particular, they wished to replace the words "which have undertaken" by the words "which undertake", to delete the words "and report on", and at the end of the text to add the words "and subsequent years" after the words "for 1973".

5. Mr. NOOR (Somalia) agreed to the changes proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for having taken his proposal into account.

6. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that document A/C.5/L.1074 did not contain all the amendments proposed by his delegation to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2. His delegation had requested, in particular, that the words "to ensuring central control and direction in the implementation of information policies and guidelines and thereby enabling" in paragraph 10 should be replaced by the words "to enabling".

7. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that his delegation, which had been unable to participate in the debate on the question under consideration, wished, before the vote, to explain its vote on paragraph 10 of the draft resolution and the various amendments which had been submitted.

8. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole. It supported the amendments proposed by Colombia (A/C.5/L.1076) and noted with satisfaction that the sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted the amendment by Somalia (A/C.5/L.1073), which in fact corresponded to a draft resolution before the Second Committee<sup>1</sup> concerning the promotional activities of the Office of Public Information. It would also vote in favour of the amendment proposed by the Netherlands (A/C.5/L.1075) to paragraph 10. His country was very concerned about the type of information disseminated in the economic and social fields and was not satisfied with the activities of the Office of Public Information and the Centre for Economic and Social Information in that regard. He expressed the wish that the review and reappraisal to be carried out by the Secretary-General should be as comprehensive as possible and free from preconceived ideas.

9. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) felt that paragraph 10 of the draft resolution would have a negative influence on the dissemination of information and the mobilization of public opinion and would therefore vote against that paragraph. It was more than ever necessary to intensify the dissemination of information and the mobilization of public opinion in order to make known the importance of

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 45, document A/8559, paras. 13 and 24, draft resolution I.



the International Development Strategy. His delegation favoured the amendments proposed by the Netherlands and by Indonesia. It was not desirable that the Office of Public Information, whose sphere of competence was extremely general, should exercise central direction and control over the Centre for Economic and Social Information, which dealt specifically with the dissemination of information in the economic and social fields. If paragraph 10 of the draft resolution was retained, his delegation would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to make their explanations of vote after the vote. He put to the vote draft resolution A/C.5/L.1066 submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*The draft resolution was rejected by 35 votes to 18, with 31 abstentions.*

11. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the amendments which had been submitted by Czechoslovakia (A/C.5/L.1070) to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1.

*The amendments were rejected by 41 votes to 14, with 30 abstentions.*

12. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision, successively, on all the amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2. Recalling that the amendment submitted by Somalia (A/C.5/L.1073) had been accepted by the sponsors, he put to the vote, paragraph by paragraph, the amendments submitted by Indonesia (A/C.5/L.1074).

*The first amendment by Indonesia was rejected by 34 votes to 30, with 21 abstentions.*

*The second amendment was adopted by 35 votes to 21, with 32 abstentions.*

*The third amendment was rejected by 34 votes to 32, with 20 abstentions.*

13. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) requested that the amendment submitted by his delegation (A/C.5/L.1075) should be put to the vote.

*At the request of the representative of the Philippines, the vote was taken by roll-call.*

*The Upper Volta, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Venezuela, Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Khmer Republic, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago.

*Against:* Yemen, Zambia, Algeria, Bahrain, Barbados, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic,

Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania.

*Abstaining:* Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Argentina, Australia, Burma, Cameroon, Cyprus, Ecuador, Gabon, Greece, Italy, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America.

*The amendment proposed by the Netherlands was rejected by 36 votes to 33, with 20 abstentions.*

14. The CHAIRMAN put the amendments submitted by the Colombian delegation (A/C.5/L.1076) to the vote, paragraph by paragraph.

15. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that, having noted the Indian representative's suggestion at the 1467th meeting, his delegation agreed to delete the words "and by the delegations of Member States" from its first amendment.

16. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the word "relevant" should be added before the word "statements".

*The first of the amendments proposed by Colombia, as amended, was adopted by 34 votes to 22, with 27 abstentions.*

*The second amendment was adopted by 23 votes to 17, with 43 abstentions.*

*The third amendment was rejected by 21 votes to 9, with 54 abstentions.*

17. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the amended text of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2.

18. Mr. LOGINOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for a separate vote on operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 9 of the draft resolution.

19. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) requested a separate vote on the words "with appreciation" in operative paragraph 1.

20. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) asked for a separate vote on operative paragraph 7.

21. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked for a separate vote on the fifth preambular paragraph.

*The fifth preambular paragraph was adopted by 47 votes to 17, with 21 abstentions.*

22. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the words "with appreciation" in operative paragraph 1.

*At the request of the representative of Iraq, the vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Spain, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Ceylon, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia.

*Against:* Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Peru, Poland.

*Abstaining:* Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Burma, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Israel, Portugal, Romania, South Africa.

*It was decided to retain the words "with appreciation" in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2) by 66 votes to 14, with 12 abstentions.*

*Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 67 votes to 14, with 10 abstentions.*

*Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 67 votes to 12, with 9 abstentions.*

*Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by 62 votes to 13, with 14 abstentions.*

*Operative paragraph 7, as amended by the second amendment of Indonesia, was adopted by 72 votes to 1, with 19 abstentions.*

*Operative paragraph 9 was adopted by 74 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

*Operative paragraph 10 was adopted by 51 votes to 19, with 23 abstentions.*

23. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, as amended, as a whole.

*At the request of the representative of Portugal, the vote was taken by roll-call.*

*The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Cameroon, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo,

Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Brazil.

*Against:* Portugal.

*Abstaining:* Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Ceylon, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Mongolia, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Afghanistan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted as a whole by 59 votes to 1, with 33 abstentions.*

24. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that members of the Committee were to be congratulated on the spirit of co-operation and conciliation they had shown, and acknowledged that the text that had been adopted was a remarkable improvement on the original draft resolution. His delegation had, however, been forced to abstain from voting on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 owing to the positions of principle which he had outlined in his statement at the 1450th meeting.

25. Although his delegation was pleased that the second preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2 clearly reaffirmed the principles on which United Nations information policy was based, it nevertheless wondered, as did a number of other delegations, whether the last part of that paragraph was particularly useful or felicitous in so far as it might open the door to the alteration of those basic principles. It felt that, although the General Assembly might be justified in formulating new guidelines on the content of information if that proved necessary, it should not change either the manner or spirit in which information was disseminated.

26. His delegation welcomed with satisfaction the revival of the Consultative Panel on Public Information, as provided for in paragraph 6, but regretted that no consideration had been given to [the possibility of] calling on the Consultative Panel to examine the principle and implementation of the programmes approved by the draft resolution. The Consultative Panel could, in fact, play a dual role in respect of general information policy and technical matters, for there was nothing to prevent its members from obtaining expert advice.

27. With regard to paragraph 10, the French delegation felt that, although the Centre for Economic and Social Information was an integral part of the Office of Public Information, it must preserve its own character and methods so that it could play a distinctive role. His delegation wondered whether the final wording of paragraph 10 was really consistent with that principle.

28. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) said that he had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, which covered all aspects of the question and took account of the

views of the majority of delegations. He was grateful, in that connexion, to the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and the other sponsors of the draft resolution for their flexibility and willingness to co-operate. His delegation, which attached very great importance to information, welcomed the affirmation of the basic principles which should determine United Nations policies in the area, as set forth in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, and 595 (VI) of 4 February 1952. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution had answered the questions raised in the Committee by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information by reaffirming those principles.

29. He welcomed the approval in principle of the establishment of a regional production bureau at Addis Ababa, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report. That was a useful development which should be encouraged. He hoped, however, that the countries concerned would be consulted before the project was implemented.

30. As a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1152/Rev.3<sup>2</sup> on the dissemination of information and the mobilization of public opinion in connexion with the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade adopted by the Second Committee, he attached much importance to the Centre for Economic and Social Information, which should allow the achievement of the objectives of that draft resolution. In that connexion, he said that he supported operative paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 because he felt it necessary to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary-General who, in his capacity as the most senior official of the Organization, was empowered to exercise "central control and direction in the implementation of information policies and guidelines". That meant that the Secretary-General, through the Office of Public Information was responsible for the activities of the Centre for Economic and Social Information. It was to be hoped that improved co-ordination and stricter control would enable the Centre to achieve better results.

31. He thought that the draft resolution which had been approved should increase the efficiency of the United Nations information machinery by improving its organization. He hoped that the Secretary-General would carry out a realistic and objective study of the situation in the field of information and make the necessary administrative changes in the Office of Public Information.

32. Mr. M. OSMAN (Egypt) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 because it had appreciated the objectivity of its sponsors, and of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania in particular, and their strenuous efforts to achieve a compromise. The long discussion of operative paragraph 10 could have been shortened if delegations had taken a more objective approach. His delegation had been constrained to abstain on or to vote against the Soviet draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1066) and the amendments submitted by the delegations of Czechoslovakia (A/C.5/L.1070), the Netherlands (A/C.5/L.1075), Indonesia (A/C.5/L.1074) and Colombia (A/C.5/L.1076), in order not to compromise

the consensus for which the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 had striven.

33. Mr. SARAMO (Finland) said that he had voted in favour of the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1066) and the Czechoslovak amendments (A/C.5/L.1070) to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.1 because he considered that the financial difficulties which the United Nations was currently experiencing called for stricter control of all expenditure, especially that which was not urgent. In view of that financial situation, it would have been wiser to convene the Consultative Panel on Public Information so that it could study the substance of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report before taking a decision on them. His delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 as a whole because the text had not been amended to a degree which would have made it acceptable.

34. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) was gratified that three of his amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 had been accepted. Delegations which had voted against his fourth amendment had probably not disputed the right of the Councils and the Main Committees of the General Assembly to make recommendations and advise the Secretary-General on information; they presumably considered that right to be self-evident. He believed that the General Assembly would have considerably strengthened that right by reaffirming it. On those grounds, he had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

35. Mr. STEWARD (South Africa) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 because, as he had already mentioned in the general discussion on the item, it believed that the information activities of the Office of Public Information should be determined by the principles set forth in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI), which were in any case reaffirmed in the draft resolution. Those basic principles should remain undiluted and should not be made subject to other General Assembly directives. Accordingly, his delegation had reservations concerning the concluding phrases of the second preambular paragraph and of operative paragraph 2. It understood the reference to "central control and direction" in two places in the draft resolution to mean central control and direction within the confines of resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI). Operative paragraph 8 would have been acceptable to his delegation with the inclusion of the word "political", as proposed by the Czechoslovak delegation (A/C.5/L.1070), because it agreed that shortcomings did exist in United Nations information programmes and activities, especially in the political field, particularly relating to activities which went beyond the authority of the basic resolutions which he had mentioned. His delegation could not associate itself with the idea contained in the new paragraph 7 proposed by the delegation of Somalia (A/C.5/L.1073) and accepted by the sponsors because that paragraph appeared to indicate that the United Nations could have basic operating principles for the Office of Public Information which were to be applied in one way in regard to some aspects of its activities and in another way to other aspects. Furthermore, the word "universal" lacked precise definition as used in the text. If it was used in the context of the Organization and the Charter it could only mean the positive concurrence of the totality of the membership.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

36. His delegation had voted for the amendments in document A/C.5/L.1070 because it considered the course of action proposed by the Czechoslovak delegation to be more prudent financially than that in the draft resolution.

37. As to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, which provided for the revival of the Consultative Panel on Public Information, it would have been to the advantage of the Organization and Member States for the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1) to be examined by an independent, and preferably expert, group. For that reason, it had supported the USSR draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1066).

38. With regard to operative paragraph 4, his delegation considered that funds could not legitimately be applied to the objectives set out in subparagraph (iv) of paragraph 261 of the Secretary-General's report; it had similar reservations with regard to some of the activities contemplated in other subparagraphs of that paragraph. For the reasons explained by the representative of Czechoslovakia, it also felt that subparagraphs (xii) and (xiv) of paragraph 261 of the report should have been omitted from the draft resolution. It had therefore voted in favour of the second amendment by the Czechoslovak delegation.

39. As to operative paragraph 10, his delegation was sympathetic to the idea that all outlets which issued information in the name of the United Nations should come under the central direction of the Office of Public

Information and adhere to the basic principles governing information laid down in resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI). Furthermore, there should be no duplication of information activities. His delegation's comments applied to the Centre for Economic and Social Information and the Unit on *Apartheid*.

40. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that his delegation had voted for draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 as a whole, even though it still had reservations on it, having regard to the Canadian representative's interpretation of the words "central control and direction".

41. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that he had voted in favour of the Indonesian amendment (A/C.5/L.1074, para. 2) to operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2, but did not agree with the order of priorities applied to information objectives in that paragraph because the political field was mentioned last.

42. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States) said that the whole question of United Nations information policies and activities should be examined by the Consultative Panel on Public Information before the General Assembly took any decision on the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report. That being so, he had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2 as a whole.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



*Chairman:* Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Woschnagg (Austria),  
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1468th meeting)

*Review and reappraisal of United Nations information  
policies and activities (concluded)* (for the documenta-  
tion, see the 1468th meeting)

1. Mr. GUPTA (India) recalled that he had asked for a separate vote on the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1068/Rev.2. Although his delegation was conscious of the need to avoid duplication and did not support the expansion of separate information units, such as that of UNCTAD, he had expressed certain misgivings regarding the interpretation of the fifth preambular paragraph, and felt that the authors of the draft resolution had not taken proper account of those misgivings.

2. In the separate vote on operative paragraph 5, he had abstained from voting because he believed that it was not properly worded. The Committee should either approve the proposal at the current session and discuss its implementation, or not approve it at the current stage and defer discussion of its implementation to the twenty-seventh session. He did not understand the wording as it stood.

3. Turning to operative paragraph 10, he said that he had supported the amendments by Indonesia (A/C.5/L.1074) and the Netherlands (A/C.5/L.1075), and had previously explained his attitude toward the language of the draft resolution. He repeated that India's intention was not that the Centre for Economic and Social Information should be autonomous or part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, but merely that the Secretary-General should be given total freedom to make the administrative arrangements necessary to implement the policies laid down by the legislative authority. He believed that the wording of paragraph 10 compromised the Secretary-General's freedom of action and had therefore voted against it.

4. He had voted for the first of the Colombian amendments (A/C.5/L.1075), and had been surprised that some delegations had not wished to take account of the statements made on behalf of the Secretary-General by his representative. India had abstained from voting on the third amendment because, as the Chairman had pointed out, every United Nations organ had the right to make recom-

mendations and advise the Secretary-General on public information.

**AGENDA ITEM 81**

**Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8447/Rev.1, A/8490)**

5. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of the content of the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/1394), the Economic and Social Council's report (A/8403) should be taken into account during consideration of the question of administrative and budgetary co-ordination. The report on the administrative budgets of the agencies could be discussed at a later stage when they had been made available.

6. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's report on the administrative budgets of the agencies would be available shortly.

7. Introducing the advisory Committee's report on general co-ordination matters (A/8490), he said that chapter II, section A, on the central machinery for co-ordination, should be read in conjunction with those chapters of the Council's report referred to in document A/C.5/1394. Chapter II section B of the report was intended to give the General Assembly an outline of the current and prospective use of computers in the United Nations system. The Advisory Committee would shortly be submitting a separate report on the International Computing Centre in Geneva and on the related United Nations staffing requirements in New York; that chapter of the report viewed the situation in broader perspective. Section C examined the productivity of the translation sections. As indicated in paragraph 32, the statistics could not be regarded as wholly comparable. Nevertheless, the figures gave a broad indication of output in various parts of the system, and the chapter discussed how productivity could be improved. Section D, on extra costs of meetings held away from Headquarters, showed that there was a reasonable uniformity of treatment, with adaptations to meet individual circumstances. Section E dealt with the steps taken at Geneva to make the best use of various reproduction facilities available there.

8. Turning to the report of IAEA (A/8447/Rev.1), he said that in the spring of 1971 the Advisory Committee had visited the Agency as part of its programme of reviews instituted as a result of recommendations in the second

## AGENDA ITEM 78

report<sup>1</sup> of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. After completing the review of IAEA, the Advisory Committee had visited all the larger agencies, and would be considering their future programmes. It had been discussing with the specialized agencies how its reports on co-ordination and administrative budgets could be expedited. In 1970, the Fifth Committee had expressed the wish<sup>2</sup> that those reports should be available earlier. As long as the Advisory Committee could not meet with the agency representatives before the autumn, only marginal improvements in the time-table could be made. The possibility of meeting with the agencies in the spring had been discussed, but it would be difficult to arrange; several of the agencies had meetings of their governing bodies at that time, which would conflict with the Advisory Committee's visit, and their material would not be in final form since it would not yet have been seen by the governing bodies. Another point was that material obtained in the spring might be out of date by the autumn when it was submitted to the General Assembly, although it might be possible to bring it up to date. Thus there were many problems to overcome in improving the time-table.

9. The Joint Inspection Unit had suggested (see A/8319 and Corr.1, para. 210) that the Advisory Committee's reports on the administrative budgets of the agencies should be issued biennially instead of annually. That was for the Fifth Committee to decide, and the Advisory Committee would act accordingly. But he wished to point out, without prejudice to discussion of the proposal, that although many agencies now had biennial budgets, the two-year periods did not always coincide, while other agencies budgeted for shorter or longer periods than two years.

10. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that although the subject under discussion was one of great interest to the United States, the reports concerned were never ready until December, and consequently the Fifth Committee could not devote its full attention to them. He therefore welcomed the statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the possibility of consulting with the agencies in the spring was being considered. That would certainly allow for a more orderly procedure in the Fifth Committee, because the reports concerned could then be dealt with at the beginning of the General Assembly, when not much other material was available for Fifth Committee consideration. He strongly urged the Advisory Committee to pursue the matter on a trial basis, and ascertain whether the procedure of holding meetings with the agencies in the spring would be an improvement. Referring to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1642 (LI), he added that if the new system were adopted, the Council would have at its disposal Advisory Committee reports on specialized agencies that had recently been reviewed by that Committee. The additional information provided to the Council would represent a further step towards co-ordination among the United Nations bodies concerned.

Pattern of conferences (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8448 and Add.1, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/8448 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

11. The CHAIRMAN said that action by the Fifth Committee could not prejudice decisions by the General Assembly on proposals of other Main Committees concerning the calendar of conferences, which would be revised at a later stage to take account of such action.

12. He proposed that the Committee might adopt a draft resolution on the subject, and he read out a proposed text.<sup>3</sup>

13. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) said, in reply to a question from Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina), that the dates indicated under part I, annex I, item 6 of the report of the Secretary-General on the calendar of conferences (A/8448/Add.1) were those originally suggested to the Office of Conference Services by the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System. On the advice of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee had suggested (1459th meeting, para. 19) that the Special Committee should hold a long session in New York, from January to June 1972. The matter was still under discussion, and as long as no decision had been taken by the Special Committee, the Secretary-General could not change the dates, which accordingly remained 11 January to 18 February 1972. Once a decision to change the dates was reached, a second addendum to document A/8448 would be issued.

14. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said he would like to have more time to study both document A/8448/Add.1 and the draft resolution that had been read out by the Chairman. He therefore requested that no decision should be taken on either until the following meeting.

15. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) observed that a considerable amount of time had been devoted to discussion of other draft resolutions and it was impossible for delegations to absorb the contents of a draft resolution read out in the Committee and then take a responsible position on it. He fully agreed with the representative of the Ukrainian SSR that the text of the draft resolution must be made available in writing. The question and the related documentation were extremely important, but for various reasons the Committee did not have time to discuss them fully. In other Committees, delegations could tell how many meetings were to be devoted to a particular item. The Fifth Committee especially, concerned as it was with administrative and budgetary matters, should set aside time during the current session to consider its procedures and establish more orderly working methods to facilitate its task at the General Assembly's twenty-seventh session.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution which he had read out would be circulated the following day as a conference room paper.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 79, document A/8265, para. 13 (b).*

<sup>3</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32.

17. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, to enable the Committee to assess its work programme, a small working paper should be circulated indicating the items which remained to be considered and the state of the related documentation.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would endeavour to circulate by the beginning of the following week, the document requested by the representative of Pakistan.<sup>4</sup>

#### AGENDA ITEMS 83 AND 26

**Publications and documentation of the United Nations (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362, A/8437, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2):**

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/8437);
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

**Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (section IX) (A/8426, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)**

19. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the item on publications and documentation of the United Nations. The question of recurrent publications would be taken up at a later date when the comments of the Secretary-General<sup>5</sup> and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions<sup>6</sup> on the related Joint Inspection Unit report (see A/8362) became available.

20. He drew attention to the Joint Inspection Unit's report on United Nations documentation and on the organization of the proceedings of the General Assembly and its main bodies (see A/8319 and Corr.1), the comments of the Advisory Committee on that report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2), and related comments by the Secretary-General (see A/8488), and the report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426).

21. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) observed that most of the items outstanding on the Fifth Committee's agenda had yet to be considered by the Advisory Committee. The work of the two Committees must dovetail and the Advisory Committee would need time to consider those items.

22. The Advisory Committee in its report on the question under consideration (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2), had endeavoured to deal logically and descriptively with the many recommendations in the Joint Inspection Unit report (see A/8319 and Corr.1) which was unique in that all the inspectors had endorsed it. The Advisory Committee had also taken account of the previous Joint Inspection Unit

reports on documentation, listed in paragraph 1 of its report, and the Secretary-General's comments on them, as well as the relevant section—section IX—of the report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426) and a list of periodic reports prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2538 (XXIV). The Advisory Committee's report did not deal with the Joint Inspection Unit's report on recurrent publications (see A/8362) because the Secretary-General's comments on it had only recently been received.

23. The Advisory Committee's report began with a discussion of the undeniable impact of conferences and meetings on the volume of documentation. It did not propose a curtailment of the schedule of meetings, but it was a fact that efforts to reduce documentation would be frustrated if there was a proliferation of meetings.

24. In paragraphs 38 to 51 of its report, the Advisory Committee dealt with the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, endorsing certain proposals only partially or not at all. It had then endeavoured to assess the financial implications of the recommendations. That was no easy task and the Advisory Committee had not tried to look beyond 1972; precise calculations were not possible even for that year. The Advisory Committee believed that a 15 per cent reduction in documentation originating in the Secretariat—for example, reports by the Secretary-General and internal documents—could be achieved and that a similar reduction in the length of reports by subsidiary organs to parent bodies should also be possible. That reduction could be achieved by more precise and "action-oriented" drafting and the elimination of repetitious material. The Advisory Committee had not recommended the elimination of any particular documents, but strongly advocated a more concise approach to drafting, which would have the additional advantage of making it easier for delegations to deal with the documentation. The areas in which the 15 per cent reduction should be possible were indicated in paragraph 52 of the report.

25. The Advisory Committee, as noted in paragraphs 54 to 58 of the report, had tried to assess the impact of the proposed reduction on the various services involved. Having developed criteria, the Advisory Committee had applied them to the over-all cost of documentation which, in 1970, had been \$29 million gross. As a result, it estimated that a saving of \$2 million could be achieved, although it did not expect that it could be made in the first year, for which it felt that a more realistic figure would be \$1,250,000. The Advisory Committee did not claim that its approach to that calculation had been entirely scientific; an element of judgement was necessarily involved. Nevertheless, given the co-operation of Member States and of the Staff of the Secretariat, it did not believe that its proposals were unreasonable. Compared with the Joint Inspection Unit's suggestion that a saving of \$4.5 million would be possible in the first year, the Advisory Committee's recommendations were quite moderate. The Advisory Committee believed that the necessary adjustment in attitudes and approaches would take time.

26. He drew attention to the draft resolution in annex III of the Advisory Committee's report.

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.34.

<sup>5</sup> See document A/8540, issued subsequently.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, A/8624.



27. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation had been concerned at the volume and cost of United Nations documentation for some years and, at the twenty-fifth session (1415th meeting), had proposed that documentation should be so reduced as to achieve a budgetary saving of \$1 million in 1971. That proposal had not been approved, primarily because it had not been possible to indicate precisely where reductions in documentation might be made or to calculate exactly what savings would result. The Joint Inspection Unit's report, however, contained specific recommendations for a reduction of documentation which would lead to an estimated saving of more than \$4 million in the first year of their application. He commended the Joint Inspection Unit, particularly as its approach had been specific rather than general. He also welcomed the Advisory Committee's comprehensive report, which took a more cautious approach to the problem. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution in annex III of the Advisory Committee's report. It was to be hoped that the decision to be taken by the Fifth Committee during the current session would be only a beginning and that in future years it would be possible to deal more drastically with the problem along the lines recommended by the Unit. It was also to be hoped that all Member States, United Nations organizations and the Secretariat would co-operate fully in that endeavour.

28. His Government had begun an examination to determine its own documentation needs, which was intended to result in a reduction of the number of documents required for its own use. Such a reduction would have only a limited impact on the over-all documentation problem of the United Nations, but if other delegations took similar action the end result might be significant. In that connexion, he drew particular attention to the statement in paragraph 25 of the Joint Inspection Unit's report (see A/8319 and Corr.1) that, during the year 1970, each Member State had had in principle to "digest" something like 600 pages a day, Saturdays and Sundays included, of documentation produced by the Organization. The United States Congressional Civil Service Committee had initiated a study of the documents which individual citizens and corporations were required by law to file with government offices and had discovered that only 10 per cent of those documents were actually used, the remaining 90 per cent being stored away. Bureaucrats were not exclusively the phenomenon of any particular country or political system; people everywhere complained that their national bureaucracies had become unwieldy. If all delegations took action to curb such bureaucratic attitudes and practices, collective savings might be possible.

29. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) drew attention to part five, chapter III, Section B of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,<sup>7</sup> which contained figures showing that the number of pages of translation had grown during the year ending June 1971 by 28,613 in New York and 19,868 at Geneva. In that connexion, the Secretary-General had stated that continuing attention had been given during that year to the problems created by the growing number of conferences and meetings and by the increasing volume of documenta-

tion but that, as those figures indicated, and with the Organization's ever-expanding activity, there was no reason to assume that the output trend would be reversed. In paragraph 100 of his introduction<sup>8</sup> to the report on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General referred to the "documentation explosion" and noted that there had been a vast increase in the number of meetings of United Nations bodies and conferences, that an effective means of controlling the conference programme had not been found and that such meetings generated large quantities of documents. In his statement to the Committee at the 1427th meeting (A/C.5/1376), the Secretary-General had pointed out that the Joint Inspection Unit's reports on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1) and recurrent publications (see A/8362) both pointed to the need for a drastic reduction in the great volume of reading matter which currently all but overwhelmed not only the Secretariat but the Member States themselves.

30. The latest information submitted by the Secretary-General on the question of documentation revealed a very serious situation. It showed that all previous measures aimed at controlling and reducing documentation had failed—a fact confirmed in paragraph 30 of the Joint Inspection Unit's report on documentation. He drew attention to the statement in paragraph 31 of the latter report that the effects of all those endeavours were meagre, to say the least, primarily because most of the past decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council went unheeded, both by the Secretariat and by the Member States themselves.

31. Reviewing past decisions by the General Assembly directed toward the reduction and limitation of documentation, he drew attention to resolution 593 (VI) of 4 February 1952 which had provided that draft resolutions calling for studies and reports should clearly indicate their scope. Nevertheless, the many resolutions adopted since then which had called for studies and reports had not made the slightest mention of their scope. In the same resolution, the Secretary-General had been requested to refrain from publishing documents not called for by an organ of the United Nations and other unnecessary documents. It was no secret, however, that certain members of the Secretariat showed uncalled-for initiative by generating such documents. It was no secret, either, that some documents repeated the same material year after year. The information in paragraph 8 of the Joint Inspection Unit's report on recurrent publications was very instructive in that respect.

32. General Assembly resolution 789 (VIII) of 9 December 1953 had invited the Economic and Social Council, its subordinate bodies and all organs of the United Nations to endeavour to reduce their documentation. Nevertheless, the reports of certain bodies were hundreds of pages long and the reports of some organs were automatically reprinted in those of others. He drew particular attention to table 3 in paragraph 35 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on documentation showing trends in the volume of General Assembly documentation.

33. General Assembly resolution 1203 (XII) of 13 December 1957 had suggested a 25 per cent reduction in the

<sup>7</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1 and corrigendum.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 1A.

over-all output of documentation in 1958 by comparison with 1957. Yet, the number of page-units reproduced by the Secretariat in New York had grown from 177 million in 1952 to 243 million in 1957 and had doubled between 1957 and 1970; the number of page-units reproduced internally in 1970 had reached 547,899,325. His delegation could quote many other resolutions by the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as recommendations submitted in 1958 by the Committee on the Control and Limitation of Documentation, the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in 1966, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in 1967, the Committee on Conferences, the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat in 1968 and 1969, the Joint Inspection Unit and other bodies. Despite all those resolutions and recommendations, the Joint Inspection Unit had concluded, as stated in paragraph 28 of its report on documentation, that “the point of saturation has now been reached and indeed overstepped and the law of diminishing returns is taking over”. The Joint Inspection Unit, in paragraph 29 of its report, had pointed out that the future usefulness of the Organization might well hinge on its ability and determination to set once and for all and strictly enforce a reasonable but drastically reduced ceiling to the volume of documentation.

34. The Advisory Committee had emphasized that the core of the problem of documentation was discipline on the part of delegations and of the Secretariat (A/8488, para. 4) and had pointed out that the Assembly could either establish general recommendations or policies which were not binding upon other organs, or it could lay down fixed rules which must be complied with or establish fixed quantity limits which might not be exceeded (*ibid.*, para. 6). His delegation preferred the second alternative and was ready to support proposals conducive to the reduction of the number of documents and the over-all volume of the documentation of the Organization.

35. Mr. FIEDLER (Austria) said that the perennial problem of documentation had reached the stage where, according to paragraph 25 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on documentation, each Member State had in principle to “digest” some 600 pages a day, seven days a week.

36. Clearly, speedy and effective action was called for to reduce the volume of documentation and to make documents more concise. Since the volume of documentation depended on the number of meetings, stricter control was needed in the use of the facilities of the Organization. Furthermore, before a document was considered indispensable, a minimal cost-benefit analysis should be conducted.

37. It seemed appropriate to introduce a departmental quota system that would be subject to scrutiny each year by the General Assembly and would be accompanied by a systematic cost accounting procedure. Rigorous control should become a general and continuous practice.

38. His delegation wished to congratulate the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee on their work and would vote for the Advisory Committee’s draft resolution (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III).

39. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that, while his delegation had carefully studied the relevant reports on documentation, the late distribution of the Advisory Committee’s report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) had created some difficulties.

40. Although the problem of documentation was as old as the Organization, it was the first time that such a detailed analytical study, together with recommendations for concrete financial measures to reduce documentation, had been placed before the Fifth Committee. His delegation wished to commend the Joint Inspection Unit for its work, which might at last make it possible for substantial financial savings to be achieved.

41. His delegation supported the findings of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426, sect. IX), and considered that the often unsatisfactory quality and declining usefulness of documentation was the main reason for its increasing volume, which had reached the point where it was absurd.

42. Previous General Assembly resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation and on greater efficiency had been ineffective. Urgent action was needed to counter the effect of “Parkinson’s Law” in the field of documentation.

43. The draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee was on the whole acceptable, although certain changes would improve it. Since the volume of documentation was a function of the number of meetings, a clearer indication from the Secretariat of the additional cost of the expanded calendar of conferences and meetings would have facilitated a more rational approach to the problem, and a further limitation of documents would have been possible.

44. More respect must be shown for rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, under which no resolution involving expenditure should be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless accompanied by an estimate of expenditures. Furthermore, a proper observance of rule 155, which laid down that all committees must be kept informed of the detailed estimated cost of all resolutions recommended for approval by the General Assembly would avoid duplication of work between Main Committees.

45. Contrary to the views of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, his delegation firmly believed that the volume of documentation could already be reduced by more than 15 per cent in 1972, provided departmental quotas were introduced; furthermore, the reduction in the budgetary provision for documentation in 1972 should be somewhat higher than the \$1,250,000 proposed by the Advisory Committee. One of the reasons for that view was the cost of the anticipated increase in the volume of documentation in Chinese. While the Advisory Committee currently found itself unable to express an opinion on whether a 50 per cent reduction in documentation compared with 1970 could ultimately be achieved, his delegation considered that such a reduction—already being achieved in the case of the third session of UNCTAD—was possible and highly desirable.

46. There was need for a radical re-examination of the format of reports prepared in the Secretariat and a change of attitude by both staff and delegations.

47. In order to expedite the work of the Fifth Committee, he wished to propose that meetings of the Advisory Committee, instead of being held in the afternoons—which sometimes entailed adjournment of the meetings of the Fifth Committee and costly and counter-productive night meetings—should be held at the beginning of September, starting in 1972. The essential precondition was that all relevant documentation should be before the Advisory Committee in good time.

48. His delegation expected the Advisory Committee's draft resolution to be adopted unanimously; that would have a direct bearing on the effective implementation of its provisions.

49. Mr. NAUDY (France) congratulated the Joint Inspection Unit on its report on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1) which was extensive, original and stimulating. While the measures proposed by the Advisory Committee pursuant to that report, particularly with regard to budgetary reductions, might appear modest, they were no more than a first step. It would be better to start with a moderate success than to risk a failure. As the Advisory Committee had stated in paragraph 62 of its related report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2), the mental attitudes and working habits of both representatives and staff members could not be changed overnight, but, given those changes, the current trend towards a disturbing increase in documentation could be reversed in favour of a progressive reduction in volume. That was the firm hope of his delegation.

*The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**AGENDA ITEM 78**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT  
A/8547 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 38\*  
(A/C.5/1411)**

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in his statement (A/C.5/1411) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee (A/8547, para. 22) concerning agenda item 38, the Secretary-General had recommended an additional appropriation of \$11,000 for the travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses for the Chairman, one other member of the Working Group referred to in the draft resolution and one Secretariat staff member, under a new chapter of section 12 (Special expenses) of the budget estimates for 1972. The Advisory Committee had been informed that similar expenditure incurred in 1971 had been met from appropriations under sections 1 and 5 of the 1971 budget estimates. The Advisory Committee recommended that the same procedure should be adopted for 1972 and that, instead of making an appropriation under a new chapter of section 12, the General Assembly should decide that the expenditure in question should be absorbed under the appropriations already made under sections 1 and 5 of the 1972 budget estimates, in the amount of \$8,000 under section 1 and \$3,000 under section 5.

2. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee, no additional appropriation would be required in the budget estimates for 1972 as, according to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the expenditure involved in the draft should be met from existing resources under sections 1 and 5.

*It was so decided.*

\* United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East:

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General;
- (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General;
- (d) Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter XVIII (section D)].

Pattern of conferences (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8448 and Add.1, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8448 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

3. Mr. RADLEY (United Kingdom) said that he had been puzzled by the reference to a meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources in the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1973 (see A/8448/Add.1, annex II), as that Committee was due to meet in 1972 and the Economic and Social Council had decided<sup>1</sup> at its forty-seventh session that its subsidiary bodies should meet biennially wherever possible. He was also surprised to note that the Editors' Round Table meetings organized by the Office of Public Information were scheduled to take place annually; that arrangement had not been mentioned either in the Secretary-General's report on United Nations information policies and activities<sup>2</sup> or during the Committee's long debate of the question. He would therefore welcome clarification as to the purpose of the meetings, their approximate duration and the editors who were to take part. In view of the Organization's financial situation, he wondered whether the meetings were absolutely essential or whether they might not be held every two years instead of annually. He would welcome clarification of those two points from the representative of the Secretary-General.

4. As to draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32, he thought that there should be some reference to the link between the calendar of conferences and the volume of documentation, which was recognized by both the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. He therefore suggested the addition to the draft resolution of a preambular part which would read:

*"Recognizing that the proliferation of conferences and meetings is one of the primary sources of the growth of documentation in the United Nations".*

5. He believed, as did the members of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1, para. 252), that if the recommendations regarding the reduction and control of

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-seventh Session, Resolutions*, pp. 18 and 19.

<sup>2</sup> Document A/C.5/1320/Rev.1, pertaining to agenda item 76, issued separately (offset).

documentation were to be really effective, there must be stringent control of the over-all programme of conferences and meetings, but he shared the doubts expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 5 of its report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) as to the efficacy of the special study recommended by the inspectors. In the view of his delegation, there were two aspects to the problem—one being greater self-control by Member States with regard to the convening of new conferences and the other being stricter administrative guidelines developed within the Secretariat. To encourage the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps, he proposed the inclusion in the draft resolution of an operative paragraph to read:

*“Further requests the Secretary-General to include in the study to be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 6(b) of resolution 2609 (XXIV) an assessment of possible administrative measures to ensure stricter control over the calendar of conferences”.*

6. He agreed with the observations in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Advisory Committee's report concerning the need to observe strictly rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to avoid last-minute changes in the dates and venues of meetings. He wondered whether it would be practicable to include in the calendar of conferences the estimated cost of each meeting and also the frequency with which meetings were held. The amendments which he had proposed were formal amendments.

7. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that while there could be no doubt as to the link between the calendar of conferences and the volume of documentation, he felt that the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom would lay too much stress on the problem of documentation in a draft resolution which was concerned with the calendar of conferences.

8. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) said that the two meetings of the Committee on Natural Resources, in 1972 and 1973, had been included in the calendar of conferences at the request of the substantive departments concerned. He asked what the United Kingdom representative meant by “administrative measures” in the operative paragraph which he had proposed for inclusion in the draft resolution.

9. Mr. RADLEY (United Kingdom) explained that they would be measures to ensure more stringent control of the programme of meetings so as to lighten the schedule and achieve savings. The measures should originate with the Secretariat itself.

10. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) said that the great majority of meetings were included in the calendar of conferences as a result of decisions taken by United Nations bodies. It was difficult for the Secretariat to space such meetings evenly throughout the 12 months of the year because it had to take account of the wishes of participants, the availability of premises and the time required for the preparation of documentation. He failed to see, therefore, how the Secretariat could streamline the pattern of conferences since it was obliged to comply in the matter with decisions by United Nations organs.

11. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) felt that documentation and the pattern of conferences were distinct questions and that the United Kingdom proposals should be submitted separately. He would therefore vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32 as it stood.

12. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reserved the right to comment on the pattern of conferences and on draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32 at a later stage but wished to add a suggestion to those made by the United Kingdom representative with regard to the form in which the calendar of conferences was presented. He would like the decisions of policy-making bodies authorizing the convening of a conference or meeting to be indicated in an additional column in the calendar. If they were, the Fifth Committee's work would be made easier.

13. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) thought that the two amendments proposed by the United Kingdom representative were most useful. The paragraph proposed for the preamble would indicate the connexion between the calendar of conferences and the volume of documentation, which had been recognized by the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee.

14. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, like the representative of Pakistan, he felt that it would be preferable not to mention the problem of documentation in the draft resolution and to deal with the two questions separately. He did not believe that the preambular paragraph proposed by the United Kingdom representative was necessary because the link which it stressed was self-evident. Nor was the second amendment proposed by the United Kingdom justified because, as the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services had pointed out, the role of the Secretariat in drawing up the calendar of conferences consisted solely in implementing the decisions taken by United Nations organs. Furthermore, the new paragraph might reduce the authority of Member States, which alone were entitled to determine the programme of conferences, by subjecting their decisions to the control of the Secretariat. He had no objection, on the other hand, to the changes proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union in the presentation of the calendar of conferences.

15. Mr. NAUDY (France) felt that the United Kingdom representative's suggestions for supplementing and improving the presentation of the calendar of conferences were sensible and should be taken into account.

16. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) considered that the United Kingdom representative's suggestions were relevant and very useful. He suggested that the words “of expenses and” should be added after the word “growth” in the preambular paragraph proposed by the United Kingdom, in order to take account of the views of the representatives of Pakistan and Brazil. The amendment would then be more general and would not be confined only to the problem of documentation.

17. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services), replying to the question of the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the meetings of the

Committee on Natural Resources, drew attention to paragraph 145 of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions,<sup>3</sup> which stated that, in resolution 1572 A (L) the Council had agreed that the Committee on Natural Resources should meet and report to the Council at least once every other year and that, subject to determination of specific date and venue in conjunction with the calendar of conferences, the second session of the Committee should be convened in the early part of 1972. It was at the request of the Office of Public Information that a meeting of the Editors' Round Table had been scheduled for 1973.

18. The United Kingdom representative's suggestion that the periodicity of meetings be indicated presented no difficulty for the Secretariat. The second suggestion, namely, that an indication be given of the cost of each meeting, would have to be taken up with the Controller; it might be more difficult to implement for it would require the preparation of cost estimates for each meeting (translation and interpretation services, typing and documents reproduction, production of summary records, for example). The Soviet Union's proposal, that the decisions of bodies which had requested the committee meeting or conference should be indicated, would on the other hand present no problem.

19. Mr. RADLEY (United Kingdom) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for his explanations but said that he still did not see why the Committee on Natural Resources had to meet in 1973. He also wished for further information on the purpose and frequency of the Editors' Round Table meetings.

20. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that his Government had already made all the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources which was to take place in Kenya; he hoped that there would be no change regarding that meeting.

21. Mr. PICK (Canada) felt that the proposal submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom would improve the text of draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32. He welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's comments on ways and means of improving the presentation of the calendar of conferences. With regard to recurrent conferences, it should be possible to estimate the cost on the basis of previous experience; in the case of new meetings and conferences the Secretary-General always prepared a statement of estimated costs. His delegation was also in favour of the Italian representative's suggestion.

22. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that, while sharing the concerns of the United Kingdom delegation, he agreed with the representatives of Brazil and Pakistan that it was not appropriate to mention the proliferation of documentation in the preamble of the draft resolution proposed by the Chairman. As for the calendar of conferences, it was prepared by the Secretary-General at the request of the bodies that intended to hold meetings; it was not a budgetary document and the Fifth Committee could not amend it any more than the Secretary-General could himself.

23. His delegation was quite prepared to support any action to control the proliferation of meetings and conferences and had no objection to the substance of the second proposal presented by the United Kingdom delegation; however, the proposal should not appear in a document whose purpose was to approve a list of conferences and meetings which the organs concerned had decided to hold.

24. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) felt that the Secretariat should examine the proposal of the United Kingdom delegation very carefully. The question was whether the Secretariat could help the various organs in any way to determine the number of their meetings; the Under-Secretary-General had not exactly answered that question.

25. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) considered that the most logical course would be to approve the proposed draft resolution and limit the debate to a minimum, since the Secretary-General could do nothing to reduce the number of conferences and meetings that the various organs decided to hold.

26. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) drew the attention of the representative of Nigeria to paragraph 115 of annex II to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 359 of the report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426), in which the Special Committee recommended to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should play a greater role in drawing up the calendar of meetings, it being understood that in every case the final decision rested with the organ concerned.

#### AGENDA ITEMS 83 AND 26

**Publications and documentation of the United Nations** (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362, A/8437, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8540):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8437);
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (*continued*) (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

**Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly [section IX] (*continued*)** (A/8426, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

27. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that his delegation had read with great interest the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1) and the observations of the Secretary-General (see A/8488) and those of the Advisory Committee (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2). During the general discussion on agenda item 76, his delegation had mentioned that waste could be avoided in the field of documentation, which was overwhelming not only the Secretariat but also the smaller delegations which could hardly afford the personnel necessary to examine it all; in that connexion his delegation had concurred with the Secretary-General in the view that reducing the level of

<sup>3</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3.

documentation called for the co-operation not only of the Secretariat but also of the Member States. It had also emphasized that a similar gesture in the direction of the calendar of conferences would also result in significant savings in administrative costs.

28. He pointed out that in 1970 alone the Organization had produced a total volume of 773,086,990 page-units and recalled the remark made by Mr. Lester B. Pearson, a former President of the General Assembly, that the United Nations was drowning in its own words and suffocating in its own documentation. The inspectors had also stated that the very usefulness of the documentation was jeopardized, since most Governments could not read and digest more than a very small proportion of what they received and were finding it increasingly difficult to brief their representatives for a meaningful participation in the discussions.

29. Furthermore, in so far as waste was encouraged through duplication of functions of a number of subsidiary bodies his delegation hoped as did the inspectors that the General Assembly would wish to take an early look at the whole problem of subsidiary bodies whose mandates or activities showed clear signs of overlap with a view to concentrating in the hands of a single body all studies relating to a given subject. At the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly consideration of the budget estimates had been deferred because the statements of both the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, who as a matter of routine opened the debate, had not been ready. Consideration of the accounts and reports of the Board of Auditors had been deferred to enable the Auditors to be present during the discussion and consideration of the scale of assessments had also been postponed for similar reasons. All those deferments had finally obliged the Committee to hold numerous night meetings towards the end of the session, which had involved increased expenditure in terms of overtime. His delegation was of the opinion that the Fifth Committee's work programme must be rationalized in order to avoid such waste in the future.

30. During consideration of section 15 of the budget estimates, relating to UNCTAD, his delegation had noted with regret that two thirds of UNCTAD's resources were absorbed by documentation and conference services instead of going to studies in depth or to expert meetings. Mr. Prebisch, the former Secretary-General of UNCTAD, had already pointed out that the proliferation of meetings had become so extreme that all Governments had agreed that the number of meetings must be reduced; yet despite that general conviction, the number of meetings continued to increase, involving a great waste of money, and having an unfavourable effect on the Organization's efficiency. He accordingly noted with satisfaction the statement by the new Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Pérez-Guerrero, at the 1463rd meeting, that the level of documentation of UNCTAD would be reduced by 50 per cent in 1972.

31. His delegation welcomed the inspectors' recommendation to have documentation reduced, but feared that the 50 per cent target figure was too ambitious. He therefore supported the Advisory Committee's more cautious proposal for a total reduction of 15 per cent during the first year, involving a saving of \$1,250,000 instead of the saving of \$4,500,000 contemplated by the inspectors.

32. His delegation also found considerable merit in the Yugoslav proposal<sup>4</sup> that the number of night meetings of the Fifth Committee might be considerably reduced if the Advisory Committee could meet early in September and complete the major part of its work before the opening of the General Assembly session.

33. He commended the inspectors for their practical and specific proposals; they had taken account of the different views expressed in the Fifth Committee and their report showed an impressive improvement compared with that for the previous year.

34. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed satisfaction concerning the realistic way in which the problem of documentation had been approached. The Advisory Committee, on the basis of a report by the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1), had submitted a draft resolution (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III) proposing a series of measures which, although they might not eliminate all the existing shortcomings in control of documentation, would nevertheless improve the situation. The Soviet delegation was therefore ready to support that draft resolution. He considered it important to establish a more rational and logical basis for United Nations documentation and to maintain the practice of distributing documents in all the official languages. He pointed out that the measures proposed by the Inspectors were not adequately reflected in the Advisory Committee's report and in the draft resolution it had submitted. With respect to the savings that the reduction in documentation would make possible, he pointed out that reductions made in the number of verbatim records, summary records and minutes, for example, which should have resulted in savings of \$500,000, had not yielded any savings whatever.

35. He was pleased to see that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of over \$1 million in expenditure on documentation in 1972. However, he noted from paragraph 279 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit that the inspectors were convinced that a reduction of at least 15 per cent in the volume of United Nations documentation would make possible savings of about \$4.5 million; consequently it seemed to him that the Secretary-General had the authority necessary to reduce United Nations documentation sufficiently to permit a reduction of at least \$2 million in 1972.

36. The Advisory Committee had not given enough attention to the subject of control of arrangements for conferences and meetings, and the Soviet delegation was surprised that some delegations attempted to divorce the subject of conferences and meetings from that of documentation whereas the two were closely linked. He agreed with the inspectors' view, expressed in paragraph 251 of their report, that the creation of new bodies and the increase in the number of conferences and meetings testified to the expanding activities of the United Nations, and made it possible to enlarge the scope of co-operation among Member States on questions of common interest, but that unless that development was controlled and co-ordinated in the light of the financial capacity of the Organization, the

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39.



new bodies might not be able to continue serving the purpose for which they had been established. The current situation was described in brief but very convincing fashion in paragraphs 249 to 251 of the report, which showed clearly that the General Assembly had no effective control over the establishment of new bodies or the number of conferences and meetings.

37. The Soviet delegation believed it was urgently necessary to give serious thought to whether it was really necessary that so many bodies should hold such long sessions and generate such voluminous documentation, which in many cases was not essential to enable them to reach their decisions. The submission of a detailed statement of the financial implications of the holding of a conference or meeting would be highly desirable. His delegation fully supported the Advisory Committee's comments, in paragraph 48 of its report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2), on the inspectors' recommendation 16.

38. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the documents dealing with United Nations publications and documentation constituted a fairly impressive collection, but was of high quality. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1), in particular, was a thorough and substantial study on which the Inspection Unit should be commended. Some related documents, like the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on recurrent publications (see A/8362), in which the inspector who dealt with the matter raised some rather disturbing questions, such as the number of people who actually read some of those documents, had not been mentioned. Nevertheless the Advisory Committee's report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) was a sound document that could serve as the basis for fruitful discussion on the subject of documentation. He supported operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee in annex III to its report, in which the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to reduce in 1972 the volume of documentation originating in the Secretariat by 15 per cent over-all compared with the volume of such documentation in 1970. He also supported the decision in operative paragraph 11 to reduce by \$1,250,000 the estimates of expenditure on documentation in the United Nations budget for the financial year 1972. He noted that the Joint Inspection Unit had proposed an even larger reduction, but considered that if the specific recommendations of the Advisory Committee were carried out, it would be a major step forward in reducing documentation.

39. His delegation was not sure that the Secretariat was giving enough attention to the new electronic data processing techniques that made it possible to reduce the number of staff dealing with the preparation of certain documents, and to accelerate the publication of documents in the various languages. The problem was a highly technical one, and possibly the Secretariat should call on outside experts. By way of example, he said that the Canadian House of Commons published the full text of a day's debate, in English and French, on the morning of the following day. He suggested that the Secretary-General should inform the Fifth Committee at the twenty-seventh session of the conclusions of a feasibility study on the treatment of documentation by modern data processing techniques, and prepare recommendations on the subject. The use of those techniques deserved thorough investigation.

40. He added that those were merely suggestions.

41. Mr. RUTLEDGE (Chief Editor) said that the documentation unit was fully aware of the progress made in electronic data processing, particularly as regarded the use of material already issued. The question was under continuous review and consultations had been held with various computer companies; so far, however, it had not been demonstrated that the use of such techniques would be cheaper or faster. The Secretariat was continuing to take an active interest in the question. He pointed out that verbatim records of debates were also issued the following morning in the various languages.

42. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 33 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1) in which the inspectors recommended that the Secretariat's initiatives should be far more imaginative than had been the case to date. Some of the criteria recommended in 1958 for improving control of documentation were listed in paragraph 62 of that report. He also drew the Committee's attention to recommendation 17 of the Joint Inspection Unit (*ibid.*, part A, sect. IX) and to paragraph 41 of the comments of the Secretary-General (see A/8488) on that report wherein the Secretary-General pointed out the current division of responsibility for the control and editing of documentation. Bearing in mind the criteria contained in paragraph 62 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the division of responsibility, he asked what more imaginative initiatives would be taken or were contemplated to improve the form, content and volume of documentation. If those criteria were applied, such improvements could have a particularly salutary effect on the volume of documentation, as well as on the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees. It could also facilitate the work of delegations, which had to read and digest the numerous documents in order to participate in the work of the various bodies of the United Nations.

43. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) explained that the Office of Conference Services was not responsible for drafting documents and that in order to be in a position to reply to the question put by the representative of the United States, he would have to consult the substantive departments. There was a whole series of administrative instructions on the drafting and presentation of documents and a complete manual on the subject would be issued early in 1972.

44. Mr. BROWN (Australia), referring to the Canadian representative's suggestion that the Secretariat should carefully consider the advantages of data processing methods, pointed out that according to paragraph 30 of the Advisory Committee's report on administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and IAEA<sup>5</sup>, the ILO would save \$100,000 net in 1972-1973 by introducing a computerized text storage and amendment system that would reduce the need for repetitive retyping. That seemed to be a type of economy the United Nations could emulate.

<sup>5</sup> Document A/8490, pertaining to agenda item 81, issued separately (offset).

45. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) emphasized that although he endorsed the idea of reducing documentation, reduction in itself would not solve all problems. Documentation played an important part in the smooth functioning of the General Assembly and was essential as a means of keeping delegations informed. He therefore interpreted the Advisory Committee's recommendations as an effort to help the Organization to rid itself of useless documentation. His delegation endorsed the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III) but would like to amend the fourth preambular paragraph in such a way that the General Assembly would also thank the Advisory Committee for its report. His delegation interpreted operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution in the light of paragraph 25 of the Advisory Committee's report, which stated that the 15 per cent reduction was to be regarded as an over-all target for documentation originating in the Secretariat. Moreover, bearing in mind the comments in paragraphs 59, 60 and 61 of the Advisory Committee's report, his delegation had no objection to the decision, in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, to reduce by \$1,250,000 the provisions relating to the costs of documentation in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972; it considered, however, that the decisions should be taken on a trial basis and the results reviewed at the following session. With regard to paragraph 3(c) of the draft, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Main Committees would be able to report delegations' views to the General Assembly and that they were allowed a certain degree of latitude in so far as the content of their reports was concerned.

46. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that his delegation had studied with interest the documents on the volume of documentation and wished to congratulate the Joint Inspection Unit on its work. It supported the Advisory Committee's draft resolution and the amendment proposed by the representative of Brazil. As to operative

paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, he would be interested to know how the quota system would work and requested that account should be taken of the comments made in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's observations (see A/8488) on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit. That was particularly important because documentation in areas to which delegations and the principal United Nations organs attached high priority must not be reduced. In that connexion, it would be interesting to know who would be responsible for deciding between competing claims and taking the final decision.

47. Mr NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) said that, in New York alone, a total of 58,320 pages of documentation had been submitted for translation in 1970—35,500 pages of documents, 17,000 pages of publications and 5,500 pages of other types of documentation. There had been a total of over 60,000 pages of documents to be translated and over 120,000 pages to be reproduced. If the 15 per cent reduction proposed in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee was applied, there would be 9,000 fewer pages for translation and 27,000 fewer for reproduction. A quota would be established for each department, together with rather complicated administrative machinery which would do the book-keeping for each department's documentation and tell the department how it stood in that regard.

48. The CHAIRMAN read out a letter dated 2 December 1971 from the President of the General Assembly informing the Fifth Committee that the Assembly intended to consider item 26 in plenary meeting on 15 December. The debate on it would therefore have to be closed at the beginning of the following week so that the Committee could adopt its report at the end of that week.

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 78

Pattern of conferences (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8448 and Add.1, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32, 33 and 36):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8448 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

1. Mr. RADLEY (United Kingdom) said that, in its amendments (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.33) to draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32, his delegation had endeavoured to take account of the reservations expressed by certain delegations at the previous meeting. It hoped that the first of those amendments was more balanced than the original proposal. Without wishing to challenge the competence of intergovernmental organs to take decisions with regard to the organization of their meetings, his delegation believed that the Secretary-General should be able to draw the attention of Member States to the financial implications of such meetings. As to the session of the Committee on Natural Resources in 1973, there still seemed to be some confusion concerning the intentions of the Economic and Social Council. For the time being, the Council apparently had not approved the holding of a meeting in 1973.

2. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that his delegation's amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.36) to the draft resolution proposed by the Chairman called for the addition at the end of operative paragraph 2 of the phrase "and to include in the study consideration of other locations;". He pointed out that a study was to be undertaken in 1972 of the optimum deployment of Secretariat services between United Nations Headquarters (New York), Geneva and other locations. He said that a similar study in respect of conferences would be advisable.

3. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) suggested that the reservations of the United Kingdom delegation should be noted in the second addendum to the Secretary-General's report on the pattern of conferences, which was to be issued.

4. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation was prepared to vote in favour of the Austrian amendment but could not accept those of the United Kingdom. A reference to the problem of documentation in the preambular part of the draft resolution would prejudice the question. As to the second United Kingdom amendment, his delegation would prefer that the Secre-

tary-General should discharge his mandate under General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) without being entrusted with other tasks which did not fall within its framework.

5. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that, unlike the Tanzanian delegation, his delegation found that the United Kingdom amendments were perfectly acceptable and that they reflected the views of the majority in the Committee. As the growth in the volume of documentation was linked to the increase in the number of conferences, a reference to the problem of documentation would not be out of place. Consequently, the United Kingdom amendments should not give rise to controversy and should be adopted without difficulty.

6. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation could accept draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32 and would have no difficulty in accepting the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom. The first of those amendments merely drew attention to the concern shared by all delegations; his delegation considered the new wording of the latter part of the second amendment to be better balanced and more acceptable. It could also accept the Austrian amendment.

7. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that his delegation could accept the Austrian amendment although the new version of the United Kingdom amendments was more difficult to accept than the initial text. He did not think that the problem of conferences should be linked with that of documentation in the same draft resolution. The proposed new operative paragraph 6 constituted a criticism of the Secretary-General in that it implied that the current pattern of conferences was not organized on the most effective and efficient basis. It would be better to wait until the Secretary-General had reported on the question at the twenty-seventh session before requesting him to take the necessary action.

8. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the new wording of the United Kingdom amendments took account of his own delegation's comments at the previous meeting. He wondered whether he had correctly understood the statements by the Tanzanian and Pakistani representatives. It was a patent fact that all delegations complained of the growing number of conferences and the volume of documentation; they would be failing in their duty if they refused to state plainly something which was common knowledge. The first amendment proposed by the United Kingdom representative would enable delegations to express their concern.

9. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) thought that the Committee should concentrate on the essence of the problem, which it had not done so far. The pattern of conferences, documentation, the staff employed, the venue

of meetings and even the programme of work were all closely linked. In order to shed light on the problem of documentation, the Committee would also have to consider the question of programme budgeting.

10. The new text of the amendments submitted by the United Kingdom constituted a specific proposal which his delegation could accept even though those amendments were directed to only one aspect of the problem. The Austrian amendment was also acceptable.

11. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) supported the Austrian amendment. He could not, however, accept those submitted by the United Kingdom. The first of them raised a question of logic. The Fifth Committee was considering the pattern of conferences and that question had come before it not because of the increase in the volume of documentation. The pattern of conferences involved a series of quite different considerations, including the question of premises, staff and the dates and venues of conferences and meetings. The first amendment implied that the United Kingdom representative regarded the increase in conferences and meetings as essentially harmful. The Fifth Committee was considering the problem of documentation under the appropriate item of its agenda and the draft resolution in annex III to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1) proposed a series of specific and effective measures. As to the second amendment, he recalled that many attempts had been made to the same purpose in the past without yielding any practical results because of the numerous problems involved in the organization of conferences.

12. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that meetings and documentation were two inseparable elements in the work of the Organization, which were really the collective tools of Member States. It was therefore impossible to impose arbitrary cuts in their regard. It must be recognized, however, that the tools had become too heavy to manage, particularly for the smaller countries, which did not have sufficient staff to give careful attention to all the documentation submitted to them. Thus, cuts were obviously called for to ensure that the Organization could function as effectively as possible. At the current session, the Fifth Committee had before it concrete proposals for a reduction of at least 15 per cent in the total volume of documentation, which should bring it closer to the desired objectives. The savings resulting from that reduction were in a way secondary and it was a moot point whether they would amount to \$1,250,000 or more. Nevertheless, a formal decision to reduce by \$1,250,000 the budget estimate expenditure on documentation would be an additional guarantee that the reduction would be effected. For all those reasons, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III) and the Brazilian amendment (1470th meeting) to that draft. It considered that those measures were only a first step and hoped that the comments of the United States representative (*ibid.*) on the format and contents of future reports would not pass unheeded.

13. With regard to the United Kingdom amendments (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.33) to draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32, his delegation found that the misgivings voiced by some delegations carried much weight but felt that no means to achieve a reduction in the volume of documentation should be left unused. It believed that efforts directed towards the tighter control of meetings and conferences and the expression of the Committee's awareness of the relationship between documentation and the number of meetings and conferences could be useful. It would therefore accept the United Kingdom amendments, even though it would have preferred the initial version of the first one. He endorsed the observations of the Netherlands representative as to the necessity for programme budgeting in respect of expenditure in the areas under consideration.

14. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that there was a relationship between documentation and meetings and conferences, and the adoption by the Committee of two draft resolutions on the subject would demonstrate the importance delegations attached to the question. Nevertheless, it was difficult for him to support the second United Kingdom amendment; in that connexion, his delegation endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 323 of the report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426) that the Secretary-General should play a greater role in drawing up the calendar of meetings, it being understood that in every case the final decision rested with the organ concerned.

15. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that too much importance was being attached to matters of detail. His delegation could accept the Austrian amendment. Nevertheless, while agreeing that there was a relationship between the number of conferences and the volume of documentation, it was not convinced that it was absolute and that a reduction in the number of conferences would automatically result in a reduction of documentation. It would therefore abstain in the vote on the United Kingdom amendments which, in its opinion, should not be inserted in the draft resolution under consideration but should be taken up in connexion with the item on documentation.

16. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that a reduction in the volume of documentation was imperative but that care must be taken to ensure that the quality of the documentation did not suffer thereby. The reduction should not be to the detriment of the developing countries, which had the greatest need of documentation in order to keep abreast of the work of the United Nations. In that connexion, his delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution submitted in its related report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III) that documentation originating in the Secretariat should be reduced by 15 per cent in 1972. It considered, however, that that reduction should, as the Advisory Committee emphasized in paragraph 25 of its report, be regarded as an over-all target and had reservations about a more drastic reduction in the volume of documentation.

17. So far as recurrent publications were concerned, his delegation wished to recall that during the consideration of item 76, in first reading of section 11 (Printing) of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, it had

suggested (1440th meeting) that certain publications could be issued less frequently and that useless publications could be discontinued.

18. His delegation, too, considered that the Advisory Committee should share in the congratulations addressed to the Joint Inspection Unit and endorsed the amendment proposed by the representative of Brazil. Subject to those comments, his delegation would vote for the Advisory Committee's draft resolution.

19. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) agreed that the pattern of conferences and the volume of documentation were closely linked, but wished to draw attention to the tardiness with which most documents were sent to delegations. It was surprising that nothing on that subject had been said in the Fifth Committee. Conferences and meetings could be successful only if participants were able to study the documents thoroughly. His delegation would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's draft resolution and the amendments proposed thereto.

20. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) said that he failed to understand certain delegations' objections to the United Kingdom amendments. To say that there was a link between the number of conferences and the volume of documentation was merely to state a fact, not to make an assessment. The objections, particularly to the second amendment, of delegations which accepted the Austrian representative's amendment were not very logical. Indeed, the Austrian proposal to include in the study consideration of other locations was one of the possible measures to ensure that the pattern of conferences was organized on the most effective and efficient basis.

21. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that the Committee on Natural Resources had been established recently as part of United Nations efforts to facilitate exploitation of the natural resources of developing countries. His delegation attached great importance to the Committee's work. At its 1971 session the Committee had established basic principles for the work of its next session, which was to be held in Kenya. At that session, the Committee would take up the question of an action programme to implement approved programmes. It might not, however, complete that task at the 1972 session and it might be necessary to hold another session in 1973. The question had been the subject of long discussions in the Economic and Social Council, which had decided that the Committee should meet "at least" every two years.<sup>1</sup> When the Committee had completed its groundwork, it could perhaps meet every two years; at the current stage, however, too long a period between sessions would render its work ineffective.

22. Mr. BERTRAN (Uruguay) disagreed with the representative of Nigeria. As the representative of Brazil had said, the implication would seem to be that there was something intrinsically wrong in holding conferences and meetings. His delegation was not in a position now to decide whether the meetings envisaged should be maintained or cancelled; it considered, therefore, that the question of the volume of documentation should be examined separately.

23. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that he endorsed the United Kingdom amendments; their wording might, however, be slightly modified in order to take account of some of the comments made. The preambular paragraph would read:

*"Aware that the growing number of conferences and meetings is one of the causes of the growth in the budget and in documentation"*.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that unless there was any objection, he would consider that the Austrian amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.36) had been adopted.

*It was so decided.*

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote separately on the first United Kingdom amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.33) as subamended by the Indonesian delegation, and then on the second.

*The first amendment, as subamended, was adopted by 45 votes to 16, with 8 abstentions.*

*The second amendment was adopted by 42 votes to 12, with 14 abstentions.*

26. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32, as amended.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

#### AGENDA ITEMS 83 AND 26

**Publications and documentation of the United Nations (continued)** (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362, A/8437, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8540, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37 to 39):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/8437):
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (continued) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued) (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

**Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly [section IX] (continued)** (A/8426, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37 to 39)

27. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines expressed appreciation for the detailed study made by the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1), and for the comments of the Secretary-General (see A/8488) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) on the inspectors' recommendations. He had taken note of the reservations of the Secretary-General on some of the recommendations, particularly on the level of the reduction recommended, and shared his doubt that it would be possible to reduce the total volume of documentation by 50 per cent as compared with 1970, in view of the increase in the Organization's activities. The successful

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 1, resolution 1572A (L)*.

implementation of the Inspection Unit's recommendation, which seemed slightly over-optimistic, would depend on the future needs of the Organization; what was particularly important was that the Unit's renewed efforts had created willingness and determination to limit documentation. That was why his delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's draft resolution (*ibid.*, annex III) which, in operative paragraphs 2 to 11, indicated specific measures for preventing the proliferation of publications and documentation. Nevertheless, it would have preferred that the Secretary-General should explain how the quota system would work in practice before the Committee took a decision on paragraph 2.

28. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) expressed his thanks to the Joint Inspection Unit for its report, which contained valuable recommendations that constituted a basis for effective measures to limit documentation. He also thanked the Advisory Committee for the draft resolution which it had submitted, and said that he supported its provisions. He emphasized that documentation could not be reduced unless delegations supported the Secretariat's efforts by doing everything possible to avoid asking for additional documentation.

29. He drew attention to paragraphs 139 to 148 of the Unit's report (see A/8319 and Corr.1) on delays in issuing documents; table 4 showed that very few documents were issued before the opening of the General Assembly session. The situation became worse at every session. It had been particularly difficult in 1971 for the Fifth Committee, which had not been able to work normally at the beginning of the session because it did not have the necessary documents and was currently far behind with its work programme. That situation was unacceptable, and he asked why the Secretariat issued most of the documents at the end of the session, when the Committee no longer had time to study them, instead of at the beginning. As a result, the Committee was obliged to consider the least important items at the beginning of the session, and to leave till the end the major items, to which it could not devote enough time. He hoped that that was not a deliberate action on the part of the Secretariat. The qualitative aspect of the documentation was equally important: more concise documents would make possible savings in time and money.

30. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago) said that although the growing volume of documentation constituted a serious problem, documents were nevertheless the most important working tools of the Organization. He had noted with interest the progress made by the specialized agencies in limiting their documentation, but he pointed out that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were not in the same situation and could not be judged by the same criteria because, as the Secretary-General had noted in his comments (see A/8488, para. 11), United Nations activities were much more political. The time had undoubtedly come to limit documentation, but the question was where to begin.

31. The Secretary-General had stated in his comments that there were obstacles of a legislative nature in reducing documentation and that, for example, in the case of summary records, the limit had already been reached. He believed that the difficulty of imposing a quota system was

the main obstacle to reducing documentation. Possibly the adoption of a system of programme budgeting might pave the way for establishing a quota system. He pointed out that the documents were of very diverse character and origin, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2). The responsibility for limiting documentation therefore lay partly with the Secretariat and partly with Member States. Thus a joint effort was necessary to deal with the situation.

32. It was surely the responsibility of Member States to decide to eliminate a publication, where it resulted from a decision by a legislative organ. But such a decision was difficult to take since a given document did not necessarily have the same value for all delegations. It was easier to reduce the size of documents and there the Secretariat could play a useful role by drafting shorter reports. In any case, since reductions in the volume of documentation might be offset by the production of new documents, the results might not be as considerable as the Inspection Unit or the Advisory Committee hoped. He therefore agreed with those delegations who wished to keep the 15 per cent reduction target recommended in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee as a desirable objective, and not an absolute rule. He also took the same view of the decision in operative paragraph 11 to reduce by \$1,250,000 the provisions for documentation in the budget of the United Nations for the financial year 1972. He supported the draft resolution as a whole, and endorsed the proposal by the Brazilian representative (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37) that the fourth preambular paragraph should include a reference to the Advisory Committee.

33. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) congratulated the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee on their excellent work, and supported Brazil's proposal that the Advisory Committee should be mentioned, together with the Unit, in the fourth preambular paragraph. The need to reduce documentation was a very important issue, and he wondered why the Fifth Committee had waited until the twenty-sixth session to deal with the question.

34. He proposed that the order of the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee should be changed by putting the third preambular paragraph at the end. It was more logical for the General Assembly to express its appreciation to the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee after having examined the Unit's report and the comments of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, and that it should then state that it was "convinced that the control and limitation of United Nations documentation is necessary for the effective and economical operation of the Organization". In view of that conviction, it could then welcome "the action taken by the Economic and Social Council, in section III of resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, to improve the effectiveness and reduce the volume of its documentation". The example thus given by the Council was most important because, although its membership had doubled since its founding—which would normally entail a corresponding increase in the volume of documentation—it had decided that a reduction in the volume of documentation would in no way reduce its effectiveness.

35. It was not clear exactly what was meant by the reduction of 15 per cent recommended in operative paragraph 2 of the draft, or how it could be applied. If the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services was correct in saying that some departments had higher documentation figures than others, on what basis would departmental quotas be established? He also wondered whether the general reduction of 15 per cent applied only to the quantity of publications, or also to the quality of the material published. He shared the misgivings of the representative of Argentina, and agreed with him that reduction of the volume of documentation should be carried out carefully so as not to harm development programmes. In paragraph 17 of its report the Joint Inspection Unit had said that the documents issued by the Centre for Economic and Social Information were financed from a special trust fund. Would the cost of those documents, which did not come out of the United Nations budget, also be subject to the 15 per cent reduction proposed in operative paragraph 2, or would they be subject to a more flexible treatment?

36. Mr. PLYUSHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed his appreciation to the Joint Inspection Unit for its most valuable work, and noted with satisfaction that the Advisory Committee had included in its draft resolution the recommendations made by the Unit in its report, including those for a 15 per cent reduction in documentation and for the establishment of a departmental quota system. He had hoped that the Advisory Committee would submit stronger recommendations, but the draft resolution under consideration was acceptable and he would vote for it. He added that he would not oppose the Brazilian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37).

37. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that he recognized the need to reduce documentation, which had become too voluminous for delegations to absorb, but he thought it was necessary to proceed cautiously and guard against taking arbitrary measures.

38. He believed that the problem was due to the failure to stagger the issuance of documents sufficiently. Too many documents were issued at the same time, and delegations did not have time to study them. The documents concerning each item should be circulated to the members of the Committee six weeks before the item was considered. He accordingly supported the Yugoslav proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39), although he regretted that it did not go further.

39. Both the length of each document and the number of copies required by various delegations must be taken into account. Delegations should follow the example set by the United States and voluntarily reduce the number of copies they requested. If delegations did not agree to do so, a quota could be imposed: a certain number of copies would be provided free of cost, and any additional copies would have to be paid for. As to the length of each document, the legislative body which requested the Secretariat to prepare a report should stipulate the number of pages in each case. If documents were ready in good time, delegations would have time to study them before the meeting, and the Committee's debates would be expedited. It would also save precious time if delegations which were interested

presented specific proposals or draft resolutions at the outset, instead of holding a general debate on every agenda item. Similarly, with respect to the general discussion on the budget estimates, delegations should expound their budgetary philosophies in their general policy statements at plenary meetings of the General Assembly, and confine themselves in the Fifth Committee to examining the various sections of the budget estimates. Further savings could be made by issuing draft resolutions as conference room papers with a limited distribution, and waiting until they were adopted before issuing them in final form for general distribution.

40. However, too much emphasis on reduction in the volume of documentation might not, in the final analysis, be in the best interests of Member States. Representatives to the General Assembly changed every year and members of permanent missions to the United Nations also changed; it was difficult for a newcomer to become familiar quickly with the items on the agenda unless he had adequate documentation.

41. The inclusion of meetings in the calendar of conferences resulted from decisions taken by the legislative bodies of the United Nations with due regard for the usefulness of such meetings and their financial implications. Consequently, criticism of the calendar of conferences was tantamount to criticism of the decisions of those bodies; he personally did not believe that the Fifth Committee had the authority to alter those decisions. It was perfectly clear that the holding of meetings and conferences required documentation and entailed expenditure, but that was not a reason for not holding them, because the benefits to be derived from the interplay of ideas at the international level far outweighed the expenditure involved; and the success of a meeting or conference depended to a great extent on the documentation.

42. In operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee, he proposed the insertion of the phrase "on an experimental basis"<sup>2</sup> after the words "other than meetings records" and inquired whether there was any relationship between the reduction of \$1,250,000 recommended in paragraph 11 and the over-all reduction of 15 per cent envisaged in paragraph 2. He would have preferred not to set a target figure and to review the question at the twenty-seventh session, taking into account the report the Secretary-General would submit and the experience acquired during 1972.

43. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) pointed out that the problem arising from the delay in issuing documentation was particularly serious for the Fifth Committee because of the huge volume of documentation it had to examine at each session and because, to some extent, the work of other committees affected its own work programme. According to available data, the Fifth Committee had received, during the twenty-fifth session, 170 documents totalling 1,044 pages, most of which should have been issued as pre-session documents. In the circumstances, many of the in-session documents were of no practical use to the Committee. Apart from the difficulties created for Member States,

<sup>2</sup> The proposal was subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.41.



those delays might have financial implications in that they might compel the Committee to extend its work. A more rational utilization of the capacity of the Secretariat might also make it possible not to have to adjourn meetings of the Fifth Committee when the Advisory Committee was meeting.

44. His delegation's proposal was based on the first two recommendations of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 304 of its report (A/8426). It recommended that timely distribution of documents in all working languages should be scrupulously observed, and that all the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly should be required to complete their work and submit their reports before the opening of each regular session of the Assembly. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraphs 274 and 275 of the report and to paragraphs 201 and 202 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1). He also drew attention to paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/1365<sup>3</sup> on the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The first suggestion made in paragraph 274 of the Special Committee's report had been implemented and he hoped that the second would also be put into effect. He added that if the Advisory Committee did not consider itself competent to make detailed recommendations on the matter, the Fifth Committee was, in his view, sufficiently qualified to do so.

45. He had decided not to submit amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32<sup>4</sup> or the draft appearing in annex III to document A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, but he requested that his suggestions should be included in the Fifth Committee's report.

46. Since he realized that the recommendation contained in paragraph 304 (d) of the Special Committee's report would not be viable, at least for the time being, he was prepared to accept a more flexible formula, namely, that the major part of the reports should be submitted before the opening of each regular session of the General Assembly. He therefore proposed the inclusion of the following recommendations in the Fifth Committee's report:

"In order to expedite the work of the Fifth Committee and avoid costly and unproductive night meetings, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in accordance with the spirit of some of the recommendations of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly, should be requested to complete the major part of its work and submit its reports before the opening of each regular session of the General Assembly.

"The Secretary-General should be requested to prepare and distribute in due time documents relevant to the issues before the Fifth Committee so as to enable the Advisory Committee to discharge its functions in accordance with the above paragraph.

"The Advisory Committee should adjust its calendar of meetings during the year so as to be able to complete the major part of its work before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly.

"The Fifth Committee should arrange its time-table in such a way as to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee."<sup>5</sup>

47. He added that his proposals had been supported by the representatives of Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Sudan and Zambia. He associated his delegation with those which had supported the Brazilian proposal to congratulate the Advisory Committee on its efforts and pointed out that his proposals were motivated solely by the desire to facilitate the work of the Advisory Committee and of the Fifth Committee.

48. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he had the impression, from the remarks of some members of the Fifth Committee, that they thought that the Advisory Committee was somehow delaying the work of the Committee and that the situation should be corrected. He analysed the reasons for the delays and acknowledged that certain documents submitted by the Secretary-General reached the Advisory Committee quite late and that they could be submitted earlier. However, there were a large number of documents which could not be produced prior to the session because they depended, for example, on initiatives taken during the session itself. It should also be borne in mind that certain documents had to be considered by other committees before coming before the Fifth Committee. Therefore, there would inevitably be some pressure towards the end of the General Assembly session. Furthermore, certain reports, such as those of the Administrative Management Service and the Joint Inspection Unit, were extremely lengthy and it was impossible for the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee or the Fifth Committee to go through them very quickly. The report of the Inspection Unit on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1), which was submitted in the summer of 1971, had remained with the Secretary-General until October; it had then taken the Advisory Committee another month to prepare its own report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2). The report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly (A/8426) had not been completed until mid-September; the Advisory Committee had not received it until the beginning of November. If very voluminous reports of that kind were to receive the attention they merited, the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee would have to have enough time to consider them.

49. It had been proposed that the Fifth Committee should accelerate its work at the beginning of the session. While it was true that the work could go faster if more documents were available, he wished to remind the Committee that the discussion on a number of items had been considerably delayed even though the necessary documents were available. The section of the budget estimates dealing with UNCTAD, for example, had not been taken up by the Fifth Committee until the previous week and the section dealing with UNIDO had not yet been discussed even though the

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6B*.

<sup>4</sup> Conference room paper pertaining to agenda item 78.

<sup>5</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39.

relevant documents had been ready since August. The Fifth Committee also often had to wait until the other committees had completed consideration of certain questions before it could take them up.

50. It had also been suggested that the Advisory Committee should meet more frequently. As Chairman of the Committee, he had no objection to that proposal. It was true that the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had been raised in order to give the Committee first call on his time. An increase in the number of meetings therefore presented no difficulty for the Chairman. He could not speak for the other members of the Committee, who also had responsibilities towards their delegations.

51. Lastly, it was important to realize that the members of the Fifth Committee had to be able to discuss the various agenda items in as much detail and at as great a length as they deemed necessary and the Advisory Committee could not meet concurrently with the Fifth Committee. Of course it should be possible for the Advisory Committee to meet more often, but an increase in the number of meetings would not necessarily resolve all problems.

52. The CHAIRMAN said that, as a former member of the Advisory Committee, he was in a good position to appreciate its difficulties. He assured the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the members of the Fifth Committee were grateful to the Advisory Committee for its efforts to discharge a particularly difficult task and that their remarks should not be regarded as criticism.

53. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) recalled that he had praised the remarkable work accomplished by the Advisory Committee. He thanked the Chairman of that Committee for his explanation, but he did not see why his delegation's proposal could not be adopted and embodied in the Fifth Committee's report, especially since it was quite willing to take into account any suggestions which might be made to it. He emphasized that although the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on documentation had been issued at the beginning of June 1971, the Secretary-General's comments had not been issued until the end of October and, in the end, delegations had had 48 hours between the time when all the relevant documents were in their hands and the time when the Fifth Committee had begun to consider the question, whereas the Secretariat had had several months to study the report. Such a situation was inadmissible.

54. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly had clearly revealed a range of shortcomings in the field of United Nations documentation as well as an obvious wastage both in the production and distribution of documents. His delegation shared the concern of other delegations about the situation and considered that a long-term solution should be sought on the basis of the recommendations of the Inspection Unit and the Special Committee. It believed that the question of documentation could not be separated from the question of the pattern of conferences and meetings and that it was also related to the question of the allocation of items on the Assembly's agenda.

55. His delegation appreciated the manner in which the Special Committee had approached all the questions entrusted to it, including the problem of documentation and its relevance to the procedures and organization of the General Assembly. The conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee and the Joint Inspection Unit, as well as the comments of the Advisory Committee, paved the way for a constructive and integrated approach to the two important questions of the pattern of conferences and the increasing cost of United Nations documentation. With that in mind, his delegation had no difficulty in accepting the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.33)<sup>6</sup> to the draft resolution on the pattern of conferences (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.32).<sup>6</sup>

56. There had also been a number of interesting suggestions made during the debate, and he drew particular attention to the Canadian representative's point (1470th meeting) about the necessity of adopting modern techniques of handling documentation. Any future study of documentation should pay attention to the possibility of introducing such techniques and should analyse the experience of those countries and organs which had developed and applied them.

57. As to the Yugoslav proposal which would request the Advisory Committee to complete the major part of its work and submit its reports before the opening of each regular session of the General Assembly, his delegation was fully in accord and wished to join the sponsors of the proposal.

58. The Inspection Unit had recommended the introduction of a document quota system comparable to that used by FAO and UNESCO, with the intention of reducing the volume of documentation by 15 per cent. But due account must be taken of the differences between the two agencies and the United Nations, which latter had a number of political tasks to perform. It might therefore be difficult to devise a system of quotas suitable for the United Nations, and other measures might perhaps be preferable. In paragraph 18 of his comments (see A/8488) on the report of the Inspection Unit, the Secretary-General made the point that the adoption of programme planning, as proposed in the new presentation for the budget, would greatly simplify the establishment of quotas. Under a system of programme budgeting it would be possible to make a quantitative estimation of the documentation needed for different programmes of activity. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's intention to study the ways and means by which the sum of documentation costs attributable to particular programmes and activities could be separately identified in the new budget presentation.

59. Lastly, his delegation felt that, severe as the rules and methods for cutting down documentation might be, they would be welcomed and appreciated by Member States, by the Secretariat and by the delegates who had to study the mass of documentation.

60. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation had submitted an amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.38) to the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee in annex III of its report (A/8532 and

<sup>6</sup> Conference room paper pertaining to agenda item 78.

Corr.1 and 2). The amendment would add, after operative paragraph 3, a new paragraph inviting the Economic and Social Council to request its subsidiary bodies to follow the principles listed in operative paragraph 3 when presenting their reports to the Council.

61. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) said that action could and should be taken to improve the documentation situation or at least to keep it from getting worse. He agreed with the Yugoslav representative's view that the documentation could be cut by 50 per cent and that the meeting schedule of the Advisory Committee could be altered in such a way that members of the Fifth Committee would have sufficient time to study its reports.

62. As the Joint Inspection Unit had noted (see A/8319 and Corr.1, table 4), at the twenty-fifth session delegations had received only 20 per cent of the documentation before the opening of the General Assembly's deliberations. While certain delays were justifiable, there was no excuse for submitting so large a percentage of documentation only after the session had begun, indeed in some cases after discussion of the item to which the documents related had ended. The full documentation for any meeting should be made available to participants at a sufficiently early date. That was particularly important in the case of the United Nations since the positions of sovereign States had to be carefully weighed and representatives often had to consult their Governments. The problem was particularly acute for small delegations which did not have adequate numbers of advisory staff. The Secretariat must therefore try to issue documents in time. His delegation proposed the insertion in the operative part of the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee of a paragraph reading:

*"Further requests the Secretary-General to take such measures as he deems appropriate to ensure that documents for consideration by the General Assembly are distributed, as far as possible, before the opening of the session."*<sup>7</sup>

That proposal went further than the one submitted by the Yugoslav delegation, as it covered not only Fifth Committee documentation but documents for the General Assembly as a whole. Its adoption would keep the situation from deteriorating further.

63. With that change his delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee, along with the amendment submitted by the Brazilian delegation.

64. Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia) said that his delegation would support the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee as modified by the Brazilian delegation. While his delegation in principle supported the Yugoslav proposal, it would not wish to level any criticism at the Advisory Committee. It felt that the saving of \$1,250,000 referred to by the Advisory Committee represented a practical goal which the Organization should strive to attain.

65. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that his delegation, which had been closely associated in the efforts to rationalize the General Assembly's schedule of conferences, felt that the most careful attention should be given to the many useful recommendations submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1). That task of scrutiny had been performed in part by the Advisory Committee in its related report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2), and his delegation unreservedly supported the draft resolution recommended by it. The draft resolution did not go as far as the inspectors would have liked, but it was a very significant first step. His delegation also supported the Brazilian amendment and the new paragraph proposed by the United States delegation. It reserved its position on the amendment proposed by the Pakistan delegation and would need more time to study the suggestion of the Yugoslav delegation, particularly in view of the comments made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Lastly, it felt that the amendment proposed by the delegation of Ecuador was a step in the right direction.

66. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) reiterated that the members of the Fifth Committee appreciated the extremely painstaking and arduous work done by the Advisory Committee; he did not see how the Chairman of that Committee could have gained the impression that some countries felt that the Committee was slowing down the Fifth Committee's work.

67. In view of the close connexion that existed between the number of conferences and the volume of documentation, his delegation felt that it would be very hard to cut the amount of documentation down. With reference to the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee, which mentioned the control and limitation of documentation, his delegation was not sure how such control could be effected in practice. Indeed, it felt that the limitation of documentation should itself be made subject to certain limits.

68. His delegation had reservations concerning the over-all 15 per cent reduction referred to in operative paragraph 2 of the draft. It was afraid that a reduction of that order might adversely affect certain programmes, particularly development programmes, and it shared the concerns in the matter expressed by the Argentine delegation. As to the possibility of limiting the number of documents circulated to delegations, as suggested by the representative of Pakistan, his delegation felt that such a course of action was worth studying. It believed, however, that the late distribution of documents was the main problem. It would support the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee together with the various amendments proposed to it and it expressed its appreciation to the Yugoslav delegation for the very interesting proposal it had submitted.

69. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee posed certain problems. Paragraph 61 of its report stated that a 10 per cent reduction in the volume of documentation would allow expenditures to be cut by \$1,250,000, but operative paragraphs 2 and 11 of the draft resolution implied that such a saving would be accomplished through a 15 per cent reduction in documentation. In addition, the reduction would be distributed over

<sup>7</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.40.

several sections of the budget, some of which had already been approved in first reading. His delegation accordingly proposed<sup>8</sup> the deletion of operative paragraph 11, which technically speaking was inappropriate in the draft resolution. If the paragraph was maintained, his delegation could not vote in favour of the draft resolution.

70. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) expressed his deep admiration for the work of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee. He unreservedly supported the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee and the amendment proposed by the Brazilian delegation. Of the other amendments, some were acceptable while others required closer study. Generally speaking, he saw the problem in much the same way as the Yugoslav delegation: the problem lay not in how much documentation there was, but also in when it appeared and what it contained.

71. The Fifth Committee had not looked very closely at the use made of documentation. It was sometimes difficult to study documents before debate because the agenda did not show the order in which documents would be taken up, and in addition the agenda was subject to change. As the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had aptly pointed out, not only was the amount of documentation very

sizable but the work of delegates was becoming increasingly complex, creating a problem which must somehow be faced. The Yugoslav delegation had done well to point to that problem, and the clarification by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had also been very useful.

72. It would be helpful if at the twenty-seventh session delegations were provided with an annotated agenda indicating the order in which documents would be taken up and the amount of time assigned to each of them.

73. Mr. MAUGER (Cameroon) supported the draft resolution recommended by the Advisory Committee and proposed that the schedule of work should be fixed on a weekly basis rather than day by day in order that delegations could make a thorough study of problems to be discussed.

74. The CHAIRMAN observed that each Friday the schedule of work for the following week was read out.

75. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to a question from the Australian representative, observed that the preparation of an Advisory Committee document on the Yugoslav proposal and its financial implications would delay the Fifth Committee's work.

<sup>8</sup> The proposal was subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.42.

*The meeting rose at 2 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK  
(A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.34)**

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.34, which contained the list of agenda items which the Committee still had to consider. With regard to item 79, on appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, the elections to the Committee on Contributions would take place on 7 December and not on 14 and 15 December as that document had announced.

2. He also invited members of the Committee to consider the advisability of deferring until the twenty-seventh session consideration of item 77, concerning the planning estimate, and the study of the mock-up of the budget under item 82.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8568 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 90\* (A/8408/ADD.15, A/  
C.5/1410)**

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to ask the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly indicating that the adoption of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee (A/8568, para. 78) would not call for any additional appropriation for the financial year 1972.

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)\*\* (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 15, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381 to 1384, A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/1400, A/C.5/1407, A/C.5/1408, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, 13, 14, 16, 22 and 25, E/5038)

\* Review of the role of International Court of Justice.

\*\* Resumed from the 1469th meeting.

***Restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social  
Affairs as a response to the Second United Nations  
Development Decade (A/8408/Add.13, A/8446 and  
Add.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1)***

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1). The corresponding report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.13) dealt not only with the report of the Secretary-General but also with the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/8446 and Add.1). The preliminary observations of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit were contained in annex I to document A/8446.

5. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the observations of the Advisory Committee on the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs appeared in paragraphs 8 to 12 of its related report (A/8408/Add.13) and pointed out that the last sentence in paragraph 12 should be interpreted not as an attempt on the part of the Advisory Committee to usurp the power of any other organ, but merely as a suggestion as to how the problem might possibly be solved.

6. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the Secretary-General had come to the conclusion that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs must be restructured so that it could discharge more effectively the responsibilities laid upon it by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Statements made in the course of debates in the competent organs had convinced the Secretary-General of the need to improve the organization and management of the Department, whose work had so far been hampered by a number of factors such as the rapid increase in the workload of the United Nations in the economic and social area and the marked growth of technical co-operation and development activities, at a time when the Under-Secretary-General's office had no adequate infrastructure to support it and management systems and practices were not effective. In his report, the Secretary-General identified the major problems, suggested an approach to correct them, recommended a reorganization of the Department and a new top-level structure, and submitted an implementation plan which should enable the necessary changes and improvements to be made in a rational and systematic manner without delay.

7. Even in the most favourable circumstances, considerable time was required to develop and complete an

implementation programme. The programme prepared for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had been planned to allow time for such additional studies as might be required; at the same time, it should permit a number of recommendations to be implemented as and when the major elements of the work were completed. Genuine progress towards the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade would depend on the extent to which the Department could provide effective support, and that in turn was dependent on better organization and management of the Department.

8. The proposed reorganization would involve a rearrangement of existing units to avoid diffusion of effort, as well as the development of improved management practices and systems, especially with regard to planning, programming, execution and control procedures and more effective management of operational activities. The Secretary-General recommended the creation of four bureaux and two staff offices in addition to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. Given the interrelationships of the substantive activities for which the Department was responsible, each bureau would be the focal point for a major segment of the Department's over-all work. The concentration of effort in four organizational units, rather than the present 10, should reduce fragmentation of effort and permit the more concerted approach which economic and social development required. The Secretary-General did not recommend any new area of responsibility for the Department and his report dealt only with questions of administration and management.

9. The Secretary-General was convinced of the need to fill the five new posts recommended as soon as possible in order to provide the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs with the top-level support and advice which he required in order to implement the Secretary-General's plan. Nevertheless, after having considered the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.13) on the question, the Secretary-General, while still considering that the Under-Secretary-General needed that top-level support, recognized the force of the arguments advanced in favour of the course of action suggested by the Advisory Committee; he accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation and would endeavour to execute the implementation plan within the guidelines set out by the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General would therefore not include the five posts recommended in his report (A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1) in the revised estimates which he would shortly submit to the Committee. The Secretary-General welcomed the proposal of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 12 of its report which would enable him to present his final proposals to that Committee during the course of its session in the spring or summer of 1972 and under which the General Assembly could empower the Advisory Committee to authorize creation of the five new posts requested if "the Committee is satisfied that the Secretary-General's proposals are sound and command the support of the Member States".

10. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the authors of the report on the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had done a considerable amount of research. His delegation thought, however, that consideration of the

problems mentioned was not within the competence of the Fifth Committee, which could not take any decision until the competent organs of the United Nations had decided on the substance of the problems. It believed that the proposed restructuring involved not merely a reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs but a complete reorientation of its activities. Although the report did not specifically define the programme of action for the proposed new units it did contain recommendations concerning the creation of new posts and an increase in the staff of the Department. In view of the tenor of the report and the recommendations therein, his delegation thought that the wisest solution would be to refer the matter to the Economic and Social Council and to await the recommendations of that body. It was proposed in the report that the Secretary-General should direct the policy of the whole United Nations system on economic and social matters, but his delegation thought that it was for the Economic and Social Council to deal with that question and in that connexion he drew attention to Article 62 of the Charter.

11. His delegation approved the conclusions in the related report of the Advisory Committee, with the exception of that in paragraph 12 in so far as it considered that the Economic and Social Council should first take a decision.

12. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) pointed out that the report submitted by the Secretary-General was only an interim report and that the Fifth Committee did not yet have before it a complete picture of the proposed structure. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs carried out a large number of activities which were related to the Second Development Decade. Accordingly, its administration, management and effectiveness were of particular interest to the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations. The report of the Secretary-General, which had been prepared on the basis of the conclusions of the Administrative Management Service, emphasized the importance of the work of the Department as well as the importance which the Secretary-General attached to the need to keep the members of the Fifth Committee informed of the work in progress.

13. His delegation shared the views stated in paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Advisory Committee's report. It also shared the views of delegations which felt that the Secretary-General's report and recommendations should be carefully examined by the intergovernmental bodies concerned, particularly by the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. Noting the various positions expressed as to the method to be pursued, he emphasized that, whatever the solution adopted, it should not delay the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. His delegation would, however, point out that it did not wish the Advisory Committee to authorize the Secretary-General to establish new senior-level posts in the Department before CPC and the Economic and Social Council had examined the question of its restructuring. Consequently, while approving the views expressed in paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report, his delegation was of the opinion that the Committee should not act until CPC and the Council had examined in detail the policy implications of the proposed restructuring.

14. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) recognized the important role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the context of the Second Development Decade and the need to structure the Department in order to enable it to fulfil its task as effectively as possible. It had been proposed that the existing units should be rearranged into four bureaux (Bureau of Development Planning, Bureau for Human Resources, Bureau for Physical Resources and Technology and Bureau for Field Operations) and to establish an office for resources planning and programme development and an office for departmental finance and administration in addition to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The four bureaux would be headed by Assistant Secretaries-General and the two new units by Directors (D-2). The Administrative Management Service had recommended that those new posts should be established but the Advisory Committee had not been able to approve the recommendation since the detailed study of the Department was only just beginning. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee had said it was convinced that the Secretary-General had available to him sufficient management expertise and experience to carry forward during 1972 the study plan as he had proposed. His delegation shared the Advisory Committee's views in that respect and fully approved its observations.

15. His delegation and that of Indonesia had intended to submit a proposal designed to upgrade the posts of executive secretary of the regional economic commissions in view of the increase in the commissions' workload and the important role they played in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The proposal had been directly tied to the upgrading of a number of posts in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the rank of Assistant Secretary-General. However, in view of the Advisory Committee's observations and of the fact that it was not recommending that the new posts requested by the Secretary-General should be established, the two delegations had given up their proposal, while reserving the right to reconsider their position.

16. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) recognized the importance of the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, given its workload and responsibilities in the context of the implementation of the International Development Strategy. His delegation, however, had some difficulty in accepting the measures proposed because the restructuring of the Department had not been authorized by the competent legislative bodies, namely, the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council. It therefore proposed to support the suggestion in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.13) that the Secretary-General might wish to return to the question in 1972, indicating that such a course would have the advantage of giving the legislative bodies closely concerned with the role of the Department an opportunity to consider any aspects of the Secretary-General's report which might be held to have policy implications.

17. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) recalled that his delegation had always been concerned to find ways of improving the Secretariat's infrastructure and had emphasized the need to reorganize the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order to attain the

objectives that had been set for the Second Development Decade. Consequently, his delegation approved paragraphs 24 to 26 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1). Paragraph 21 of the report pointed out that the Department had three basic functions to perform: maintaining a general over-all view of all economic and social development work; continuing research and evaluation of the development process; and providing technical assistance. Steps should be taken as quickly as possible to enable the Department to perform those three roles effectively. His delegation congratulated the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who had co-operated closely in preparing the report and had organized the task forces. It approved the recommendations to strengthen the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in part three of the Secretary-General's report. He would, however, welcome clarification on two scores. He asked the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for details as to the proposals, implications and the advantages that might be expected and asked the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to give some information on the work of the task forces.

18. His delegation felt that the Secretary-General's proposals were not a reorientation of the activities of the Department but an improvement of existing services and that, consequently, the Secretary-General was competent to implement them. The proposed measures were important and if the expected benefits were to ensue, their implementation should not be delayed. He reserved the right to return to the matter if it proved necessary.

19. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) accepted the recommendations in the Advisory Committee's report for, having failed to persuade the Advisory Committee of the urgent need to proceed with the proposed reforms, he had little hope of convincing the Fifth Committee. However, in reply to the questions of the representative of the United States, he emphasized that the Secretary-General had very reluctantly accepted the recommendation to delay the establishment of the five new posts. He agreed that it was difficult for legislative bodies to take a decision forthwith as the report was not complete and its conclusions were tentative. He felt, however, that to delay the implementation of the Secretary-General's conclusions by one year would have certain repercussions. It was for the Secretary-General to see to it that the repercussions were minimal and, to that end, to use the resources available to him within the existing manning table. The need to restructure the Department had long been obvious and he wished to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management for having taken it seriously and for making a considerable effort to enable the Department to meet the growing requests from the various bodies as well as the growing needs with regard to the Second Development Decade and the implementation of the Strategy that had been adopted. He reminded the Fifth Committee that the first appraisal of the progress towards the objectives set by the General Assembly would take place in 1973 and that the review and appraisal were the very essence of the Strategy and were extremely important. They required the preparation of a precise system of information and analysis to assess the progress accomplished, to identify any



miscalculations or changes in objectives and to go deeper into certain fields which had not been clearly formulated in the Strategy. If the legislative bodies were to have the necessary technical data to review and appraise the 69 points of the International Development Strategy, the Secretary-General would have to try, within the existing staff level, to mobilize and redeploy the Department's resources for the review and appraisal and take organizational measures, particularly in the field of economic information and statistics where urgent action was needed. The perfecting of socio-economic indicators which would serve as yardsticks for judging the progress accomplished and the co-ordination of the United Nations information system would involve a considerable amount of work. In that connexion, the Secretary-General would make every effort, within the framework of the current manning table, to enable the Secretariat to carry out the tasks for which it was responsible as efficiently as possible, at least as far as concerned the preparation of the first appraisal of the International Strategy.

20. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the second question put by the United States representative, said that the task force on the organization of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had completed its work and submitted a draft report. The task force on the Bureau for Development Planning had completed its report. The work of the two other task forces, on the Bureau for Human Resources and on the Bureau for Physical Resources and Technology, was continuing as planned. In December there would be a study of implementation machinery for technical co-operation and, in January, a study of personnel management and administrative practices.

21. Mr. NAUDY (France) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for his very useful statement and said that he appeared to be too modest and pessimistic since the observations which he had just made had almost convinced his own delegation of the need and the urgency to implement the proposed restructuring programme. However, the weak point of the report of the Secretary-General, which was excellent in other respects, was that it was provisional and even incomplete; it was therefore difficult to endorse it without knowing the over-all situation or the conclusions which the Secretary-General would submit at a later stage. It was to be hoped that the delay would not have unfortunate repercussions on the Second Development Decade. Paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee provided a means of ensuring that no unfortunate consequences would result from a delay in the implementation of the proposed measures.

22. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management for their explanations. He had taken note of the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and accepted the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 11 of its report. However, with regard to the proposed reorganization and the creation of five new high-level posts, it would be advisable to exercise a certain amount of

caution and, as the Advisory Committee stated in its report, to wait until the detailed study of the Department had been completed. The Advisory Committee had reached the conclusion that such advantages as might accrue from the immediate creation of the new posts would be offset by the loss of flexibility which would occur if the structure of the Department was determined at the current stage. Another reason for returning to the question in 1972 was the fact that such a procedure would have the advantage of giving the bodies concerned the opportunity to consider any aspects of the report of the Secretary-General which had over-all policy implications. Finally, it should not be forgotten that there would be a new Secretary-General in 1972. For all those reasons, his delegation accepted the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 11 of its report but could not subscribe to those contained in paragraph 12.

23. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia), noting the high standard of the report submitted by the Secretary-General, said that his delegation attached great importance to the reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which would benefit the developing countries. He regretted the delay in the implementation of the measures proposed by the Secretary-General and shared the concern expressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on that score but, in so far as the conclusions of the Advisory Committee had already been accepted by the Secretary-General, there appeared to be no point in reverting to the question at that stage. In connexion with paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee, which suggested that the Secretary-General might wish to return to the question in 1972 and then put forward firm recommendations, he hoped that the report of the Secretary-General would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in order to enable it to adopt a position on the question. It was important that, at the following session, the Fifth Committee should have before it the views of the competent bodies. His delegation, which was convinced that the Secretary-General would make every effort to assume his responsibilities with regard to the International Development Strategy, supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

24. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that the reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was essential to the implementation of the Development Strategy. Reforms were urgently needed, for the new activities entailed by the Second Development Decade required a new approach to problems. However, after having read the report of the Secretary-General—which was incomplete, with the result that the proposed reorganization was not clearly outlined in it—his delegation had some uncertainty. It wondered, in particular, how the new units were to be integrated into the proposed structures. It therefore believed that it would be advisable to act with caution; it accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 11 of its report but had difficulty in endorsing that contained in paragraph 12.

25. Mr. DE SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that he had listened with interest to the observations of delegations; he hoped that the Fifth Committee was not underestimating the functional requirements of reorganization any more than the

disadvantages in postponing the reorganization. The pressing need for a reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had been recognized as a result of the diligent and intensive work of the Administrative Management Service. He hoped that those functional requirements would not be overlooked in 1972. He wished to reaffirm that, in view of the latitude which would be given him by the Advisory Committee and within the existing departmental manning table, the Secretary-General would take the necessary steps to improve the economic and statistical data required for an appraisal, in 1973, of the progress achieved in attaining the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

26. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the Fifth Committee should take note of the report of the Advisory Committee and approve the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 thereof.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee could either approve paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee or approve paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report and make a specific recommendation to the General Assembly on the question.

28. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, although a consensus seemed to have emerged from the deliberations regarding the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee, paragraph 12 did not appear to have received broad support among the members of the Fifth Committee.

29. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that his delegation endorsed paragraphs 11 and 12, which constituted a balanced whole; to take a decision on paragraph 11 alone would be tantamount to delaying until 1972 the decision to be taken on the restructuring of the Department.

30. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the last sentence of paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, in which the latter stated its conviction that the Secretary-General had available to him sufficient management expertise and experience to carry forward the study plan during 1972, and he observed that the adoption of paragraph 11 alone would restrict the Secretary-General's field of action.

31. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) supported the observations made by the Netherlands representative.

32. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that, while, on the one hand, the Advisory Committee considered that the Secretary-General had available to him sufficient expertise to carry forward the study plan during 1972, on the other hand, in paragraph 12 of the same report, the Advisory Committee suggested that the General Assembly might empower it to authorize the creation of the five new posts requested. There appeared to be some contradiction there and he would like an explanation.

33. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out

that, in his report, the Secretary-General proposed that the senior staff required to head the proposed new unit should be provided at once in order to assist him in completing his study on the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In paragraph 8 of its report, the Advisory Committee stated its belief that the Secretary-General currently had available to him sufficient expertise to complete his study. On the other hand, in paragraph 12 of its report, the Advisory Committee dealt with the situation which would arise when the Secretary-General's final proposals became known. If, at that time, the Department needed new posts to undertake its reorganization, the Advisory Committee might then be empowered to authorize the creation of the five new posts in order that the restructuring might be implemented without delay.

34. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, in his view, the Fifth Committee should reserve for itself the possibility of deciding on the advisability of creating the five new posts requested by the Secretary-General. If it empowered the Advisory Committee to authorize their creation, it would be faced with a *fait accompli*.

35. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that he agreed with the representative of Brazil. The reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs did not mean the creation of only five new posts but of several others, too. It would therefore be preferable for the Fifth Committee to wait, before taking a decision on the question, until it had an over-all idea of all the changes in the manning table that such a reorganization would involve. It would also be desirable for it to seek the views of the Economic and Social Council on the question, because the reorganization of the Department did not concern that Department alone but might also affect certain interdepartmental arrangements—those with UNIDO and UNCTAD, for example—since the Department of Economic and Social Affairs co-ordinated all the activities undertaken within the framework of the Second United Nations Development Decade. It would therefore be desirable for the Fifth Committee to wait, before taking a decision, until it had a more complete view of the question; that would postpone its decision for only a few months.

36. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that he too agreed with the Brazilian representative concerning paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report. In view of the fact that, according to that paragraph, it was conceivable that the Secretary-General might be able to present his final proposals during the course of the Advisory Committee's session in the spring and summer of 1972, it seemed difficult for the Fifth Committee to take a decision on proposals which had not yet been made.

37. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) also endorsed the comments made by the representative of Brazil. After considering the proposals to be made by the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would undoubtedly issue a report which would be submitted to the Fifth Committee at its twenty-seventh session. By empowering the Advisory Committee to authorize the creation of the five new posts requested, the Fifth Committee would be prejudging the content of those reports.

38. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) requested that paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee should be put to the vote.

*The Committee decided by 28 votes to 13, with 25 abstentions, not to endorse paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.13).*

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in view of the decision that had been taken, the Committee should indicate in its report that it took note of the report of the Advisory Committee and endorsed paragraph 11 thereof.

40. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that he had voted against paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, because he considered, having regard to the statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, that the Fifth Committee should seek the views of the Economic and Social Council before taking a final decision on the question.

#### AGENDA ITEMS 83 AND 26

Publications and documentation of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362, A/8437, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8540, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37 to 42):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8437);
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (*continued*) (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly [section IX] (*continued*) (A/8426, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37 to 42)

41. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that following consultations with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the sponsors of the proposals set forth in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39 had agreed to amend the text to read:

“So that its proceedings may be expedited in the spirit of some of the recommendations of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee requests the Secretary-General to prepare and distribute earlier than has been the case in recent years documents relevant to the issues before the Fifth Committee, thereby making it possible for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to complete more of its work and submit more of its reports before the opening and during the early part of the regular session of the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee should arrange their time-tables in such a way as to facilitate each other's work.”<sup>1</sup>

42. He expressed gratification, on behalf of all the sponsors of those proposals, at the spirit of co-operation which had prevailed during the preparation of the new text. The sole purpose of the proposals was to facilitate the work of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee. He announced that the list of sponsors now included Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mexico, Nigeria, the Sudan, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

43. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) expressed appreciation to the sponsors of document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39 for the spirit of understanding they had shown and said that the Advisory Committee unreservedly supported the new text which had been proposed.

44. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services), replying to the questions put by the Indonesian representative at the previous meeting concerning the 15 per cent reduction in the volume of documentation and the quota system proposed in operative paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's draft resolution (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III), said that he felt it advisable to explain what the Secretary-General meant in that paragraph by the words “volume of documentation”. In that connexion, three figures should be taken into consideration: the number of pages submitted by departments for translation, typing, editing, reproduction and distribution; the number of pages reproduced by the Secretariat in the various working languages in New York and at Geneva; and the number of page-units. The first figure represented the total number of manuscript pages submitted by the various departments for translation and reproduction; the second figure was obtained by multiplying the first by the number of working languages, and the third figure was obtained by multiplying the second figure by the number of copies. The number of pages reproduced thus depended on the number of languages in which the documents were issued, and the number of page-units depended on the number of copies produced. Thus, in paragraph 25 of its report (see A/8319 and Corr.1), the Joint Inspection Unit noted that in 1970 the Organization had reproduced in the various working languages more than 867,800 pages of documentation, making up a total volume of 773,086,990 page-units, while the number of pages submitted by departments had been 58,305. The 15 per cent reduction recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit and by the Advisory Committee would apply to the latter figure and would consequently amount to approximately 9,000 pages. With regard to the figures quoted in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, he explained that the total number of pages reproduced by the Secretariat did not, of course, include the number of pages printed externally, which were covered by appropriations under section 11 of the budget. Nor did that figure include documentation for UNIDO or for ECA, ECAFE and ECLA. The figure of 499,141 pages given by the Joint Inspection Unit in table 2 of its report included all the documents reproduced in New York in 1970 by the Secretariat, including 13,000 pages of correspondence issued by the Secretary-General at the request of Member States and 12,200 pages of verbatim and summary records for the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The quota system would not apply to the records of meetings, because any decision to limit their provision lay not within the

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39/Rev.1.

competence of the Secretariat but within that of the bodies concerned. It would be useful, in that connexion, to establish a unit to administer the quota system. In some departments, the quotas would undoubtedly be exhausted by the end of August, while, in others, some savings could be effected. The proposed unit would thus have to show sufficient flexibility and be able, where necessary, to establish priorities.

45. With regard to the Indonesian representative's question concerning the documentation of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, he explained that the Centre issued two categories of documents: notes and daily press communiqués, and printed publications, which were financed from a special fund. The question whether the 15 per cent reduction would apply to those publications would have to be studied by the Controller. It would apply to the Office of Public Information, but the Secretary-General did not regard the press communiqués and notes issued by that Office as documents.

46. With regard to the question of the quality of documentation, he pointed out that the Secretariat had issued a whole series of administrative directives, of a technical nature, concerning the limitation of documentation. It had also published in 1965 a manual for officers responsible for drafting reports. Concision in the drafting of reports was certainly an essential quality, but it was a quality that was difficult to acquire and belonged to the art of writing.

47. Mr. GOUAMBA (Congo) asked why documents in French always came out late.

48. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that Poland, the Philippines, Romania, Denmark, Norway, Zaire and Algeria had asked to be included among the sponsors of the proposals submitted by his delegation.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEMS 83 AND 26

Publications and documentation of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362, A/8437, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8540, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37, 38, 39/Rev.1 and 40 to 42):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/8437);
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*) (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (*continued*) (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2)

Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly [section IX] (*continued*) (A/8426, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37, 38, 39/Rev.1 and 40 to 42)

1. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation supported as a whole the draft resolution submitted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in annex III of its report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) and strongly opposed the deletion of its operative paragraph 11.

2. Mr. KALITSOUNAKIS (Greece) said that he supported the Advisory Committee's draft resolution but considered that the measures proposed should be applied progressively; for that reason he would vote in favour of the Pakistan amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.41) to the draft.

3. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that, like the representative of Brazil (1470th meeting), he considered that operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution under consideration also applied to the Main Committees of the General Assembly. He therefore proposed the addition to that paragraph of the phrase "by its Main Committees" after the words "by its subsidiary organs".

4. He was grateful to the Yugoslav and Ecuadorian representatives for having focused attention on the question of delays in the distribution of documents. The initial text of the Yugoslav proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39) had not been happy in that its singling out of the Advisory Committee could be read as a criticism of that body and made the approach to the problem less systematic.

5. In the Joint Inspection Unit's report on documentation (see A/8319 and Corr.1), for example, there had been a

multitude of preparatory stages between the resolution whereby the General Assembly had given the inspectors their mandate and that proposed finally for adoption on the question of documentation; as a result, the whole preparatory process resembled the operation of a production line. Rather sophisticated techniques had been developed to deal with production-line problems in industry and he believed that similar methods based on linear programming in connexion with a control system, could, to a very large extent, be applied to the production of United Nations documentation. He did not think that the application of such methods should necessarily be very expensive because, within the Secretariat, there were certainly people who were either masters of the relevant techniques or had the background necessary for acquiring them very quickly, as well as all the necessary statistical material. He proposed that the attention of the Secretariat should be drawn to that possibility by the addition to the text of the Ecuadorian amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.40) to the draft resolution of the words "including the systematic application of modern problem-solving techniques" after the words "such measures".

6. His delegation found the revised version (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39/Rev.1) of the Yugoslav proposal fully satisfactory and had therefore become a sponsor of it. It nevertheless considered that the problem of delays should be stressed in the draft resolution and in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly.

7. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he would vote in favour of the Brazilian amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37) to the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee.

8. He would have no difficulty in accepting the United States amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.38) if it could be proven that the proposal in paragraph 3 of the draft did not concern the Economic and Social Council.

9. Nor would his delegation have any difficulty in accepting the revised version (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39/Rev.1) of the Yugoslav proposal. It could also agree to insert in the draft the paragraph proposed by the Ecuadorian delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.40), even though the rules of procedure of the General Assembly already provided for the observance by the Secretary-General of a given schedule in the submission of documentation.

10. The Danish amendment relating to the application of modern techniques in the solution of problems was perhaps not sufficiently precise and it might be asked how the Secretary-General was to interpret it. Nevertheless, his delegation saw no objection to its adoption.

11. He did not really understand what purpose would be served by the Pakistan amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.41) because paragraph 13 of the draft resolution provided that the Secretary-General should submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

12. His delegation opposed the deletion of paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, as the Indian representative had proposed (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.42). The figure stated in that paragraph was entirely reasonable because it had been decided upon after a thorough consideration of all relevant factors. It would therefore vote against that proposal.

13. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that he, too, would be unable to support the Indian amendment and also had serious doubts with regard to the amendment by Pakistan. On the other hand, he welcomed the Yugoslav proposal, which took up a proposal introduced by the Brazilian representative in the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly.

14. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he had requested the deletion of operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution for purely technical reasons. If the volume of documentation was reduced by 15 per cent pursuant to paragraph 2 of the draft, a reduction in expenditure would follow inevitably. The amount of the latter reduction should not be fixed arbitrarily and, in any case, the financial implications of a resolution should not appear in its text.

15. He recalled that his delegation had requested the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to indicate the breakdown by section of the proposed reduction of \$1,250,000. Proper procedure dictated that that be done particularly as the Committee had already completed first reading of the relevant sections. In the absence of a breakdown by section, there seemed no point in having separate readings. He also pointed out that the Secretariat should be asked whether it considered that paragraph 11 of the draft resolution could be implemented.

16. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) asked whether in future it would be possible to compile in a single document all amendments proposed to a draft resolution: that would lead to a reduction in the volume of documentation.

17. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Brazilian amendment, as well as that of the United States. He had no objection in principle to the Ecuadorian amendment although he would prefer it to be submitted in the form of a paragraph to be included in the Committee's report, as in the case of the Yugoslav proposal. His delegation could not accept the amendment by Pakistan because it believed that the time had come for firm decisions to be taken. Nor could it accept the Indian amendment.

18. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that he would vote in favour of the Pakistan amendment. Although his delegation had indicated at the 1471st meeting, during consideration of agenda item 78, that it supported the 15 per cent reduction in documentation, it had added that the reduction should not be to the detriment of the developing countries.

19. It would also vote in favour of the Ecuadorian amendment, with the Danish subamendment to it.

20. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) supported the amendments to the draft resolution and the proposal A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37, 38 and 39/Rev.1. He could not support the Indian amendment because the draft resolution would lose its impact if it did not contain a precise figure.

21. The Pakistan amendment would prejudice the decision that the General Assembly was to take at its twenty-eighth session on the Secretary-General's report, as provided in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution; consequently his delegation could not accept that amendment.

22. Mr. BROWN (Australia) supported the amendments to the draft resolution and the proposal in documents A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37, 38 and 39/Rev.1. He would prefer the amendment by Ecuador not to be adopted, but he suggested that if the Committee decided to accept it, the words "as far as possible" should be deleted. He would vote against the Pakistan proposal, since he, too, believed that the time had come to take a firm decision. He would also vote against the Indian proposal.

23. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained the connexion between operative paragraphs 2 and 11 of the draft resolution. In paragraph 2 the Advisory Committee suggested that the Secretary-General should reduce by 15 per cent the documentation originating in the Secretariat, which represented about two thirds of all documentation. That amounted to applying a reduction of 10 per cent to all documentation. In paragraphs 54 to 60 of its report (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2), the Advisory Committee explained how it had calculated that the reduction of 10 per cent would make possible savings of \$2 million, a figure that had been then reduced to \$1,250,000 to provide for contingencies. That target was completely realistic, and there was no rule prohibiting the Fifth Committee from setting a figure in the text of a resolution: on the contrary, he agreed with the Nigerian representative that it would certainly strengthen the draft resolution.

24. He hoped that the Australian delegation would not insist on deleting the phrase "as far as possible" from the Ecuadorian amendment.

25. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Secretariat, which for many years had proposed such measures, was pleased to see that the Fifth Committee found it necessary to take steps that, even though somewhat arbitrary, provided the opportunity of making at least some improvement in a difficult situation.

26. However even if the Secretariat succeeded in reducing its documentation by 15 per cent—which would correspond to a reduction of 10 per cent in all documentation—that did not mean that budgetary savings of the same order would be realized *ipso facto*. The Advisory Committee had said, in paragraph 59 of its report, that the main savings resulting from a reduction of 10 per cent in documentation would be under temporary assistance, overtime, contractual translations, and reproduction supplies. For 1970 those costs amounted to \$4 million, and thus savings of 10 per cent

would amount to \$400,000. By going even further, and making savings of 100 per cent on contractual translations, a further \$200,000 could be saved which, together with an estimated saving of \$100,000 for printing costs, as indicated in paragraph 60 of the Advisory Committee's report, would bring the total savings to \$700,000. He did not see how it was possible to effect the additional savings of \$500,000 that would be necessary to bring the figure up to that fixed by the Advisory Committee. It would be difficult to reduce the staff of the Office of Conference Services, for which no additional posts had been requested for 1972, even though the volume of work had increased; such a proposal would be unreasonable. Consequently, in order to attain the figure of \$1,250,000, the level of documentation must be reduced by much more than 15 per cent. The volume of documentation had grown to the point where it hampered the very functioning of the General Assembly and its organs. Thus the main aim should be to reduce the volume of documentation, the budgetary reductions being, in that case, the consequence and not the cause. Once again, the Secretariat would do its best to achieve the objective set by the Advisory Committee, but he could not, in all good conscience, guarantee complete success.

27. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the Controller's statement clearly showed that the figure of \$1,250,000 in operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution had been fixed arbitrarily. His delegation was just as anxious as others to see documentation reduced, but did not see why it was necessary to fix a specific figure. However, in view of the opposition shown in the Committee, he withdrew his amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.42).

28. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) supported the United States amendment to the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee and the revised version of the Yugoslav proposal, which he found quite satisfactory. He also supported the Ecuadorian amendment.

29. As to the oral amendment by the Danish representative to the amendment by Ecuador, he said that it was not clear how the Secretariat would apply that provision, and he hoped the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services would give some clarification on that point.

30. His delegation supported the Pakistan amendment and the amendment made orally by the Danish representative to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

31. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that the Controller's statement clearly showed that the level of the percentage reduction in documentation and the resulting budgetary savings should not be linked together. Furthermore, the reductions were proposed in relation to the volume of documentation for 1970, although the number of Member States in the United Nations had increased since then, which made the situation even more difficult. Consequently, his delegation would like it made clear in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution that the reduction in documentation should be on an experimental basis.

32. As to the other amendments to the draft resolution, his delegation supported those submitted by the United States and Ecuador, as well as the Yugoslav proposal.

33. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) said that he would vote against the Pakistan amendment for the same reasons as those given by the representatives of Australia and Nigeria. He supported all the other amendments, including those submitted orally by the Danish representative.

34. Mr. FAUSTINO (Philippines) said that, as a representative of a developing country, he understood the misgivings expressed by the Algerian representative, but he was convinced that the Secretariat would ensure that the reductions were applied only to superfluous documentation.

35. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed surprise at the statement by the Controller. At the time when the Committee was about to vote, the Controller was in effect trying to influence representatives to take a position contrary to the conclusions set forth in the reports of the Advisory Committee (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2) and the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1). In fact, the reductions recommended by the latter were much higher—\$4.5 million—than those proposed by the Advisory Committee. It was therefore surprising that the Controller should, firstly, have expressed doubts that the Secretariat could achieve the much smaller reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, and secondly, have failed to express those doubts at the Advisory Committee's meetings on the subject at which the Controller had been present. If the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, the Secretariat must comply with it.

36. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that apparently the Controller had arrived at figures that differed from those of the Advisory Committee because he had not applied the reductions to all documentation. As indicated in paragraph 60 of its report, the Advisory Committee had based its calculations on an expenditure of \$29 million on the production of documents, and on that basis had arrived at a reduction of \$1,250,000.

37. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Secretariat accepted the proposals of the Advisory Committee and any amendments the Fifth Committee felt should be made to them. He had merely expressed some reservations as to the possibility of applying them fully, particularly because of the increase in the workload with which the Office of Conference Services would have to deal.

38. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the various amendments to the draft resolution of the Advisory Committee (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III) and the proposal before the Committee.

*The Brazilian amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37) was adopted without objection.*

*The United States amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.38) was adopted without objection.*

*The Yugoslav proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39/Rev.1) was adopted without objection.*

39. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the Ecuadorian amendment added



nothing to the Yugoslav proposal which the Committee had just adopted and did not therefore see any point in including it in the draft resolution.

40. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) recalled that the representative of Denmark had orally proposed a change in the Ecuadorian amendment and that the representative of Ecuador had not said whether he accepted the subamendment in question. In addition, the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services had not yet explained how that provision could be applied.

41. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) said that there were various stages in the process of producing documentation: drafting, editing, translation-revision, typing, reproduction and distribution. The proposal made by the representative of Denmark would make it necessary for the Secretariat to give careful thought to the measures which could be taken to improve the process as a whole and to determine at what stage such measures should be introduced. Attempts at using machines had already been made, in particular in translation-revision and typing, but the results had so far not been very satisfactory. Efforts were also being made in reproduction; however, some urgent documents, such as those of the Security Council, were reproduced more quickly by manual methods. Progress had been made at the distribution stage and the Secretariat intended to pursue that course. The Secretariat would try to look for new methods with a view to improving the process of producing documentation, but he was not able at that stage to give more details in that regard.

42. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) thought, in view of the explanations which had been given, that the question had many complex aspects of which the Committee had only a general notion. He felt therefore that it would be premature to formulate an opinion and requested the representative of Denmark not to press his proposal.

43. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) did not think that the Ecuadorian amendment duplicated the Yugoslav proposal, which consisted in including a paragraph in the Committee's report and related to the documentation of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee, while the Ecuadorian amendment modified the draft resolution and concerned all the documentation prepared for the General Assembly.

44. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) was aware of the difficulties his amendment caused. However, in a desire that modern problem-solving techniques should be mentioned in the draft resolution, he proposed that the wording of his amendment should be changed by the addition of the words "including the possible application of modern management techniques" after the words "such measures as he deems appropriate".

45. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) preferred that the Committee should take a separate decision on the Danish oral subamendment to his own amendment.

46. The CHAIRMAN put the Danish and Ecuadorian amendments to the vote.

*The Danish oral subamendment to the Ecuadorian amendment was adopted by 37 votes to 3, with 32 abstentions.*

*The Ecuadorian amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.40), as subamended, was adopted without objection.*

47. The CHAIRMAN put the Pakistan amendment to the vote.

*The Pakistan amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.41) was rejected by 29 votes to 22, with 16 abstentions.*

48. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Danish oral amendment whereby the words "and by its Main Committees" would be added after "its subsidiary organs" in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

*The Danish oral amendment to the draft resolution was adopted without objection.*

49. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, annex III), as amended.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 73 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

50. Mr. GUPTA (India), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his country was perhaps more than any other in favour of reducing documentation. However, for the reasons he had previously explained and also because he had not received satisfactory answers to the questions he had asked, he had had to abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

51. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) pointed out that there had also been no answer to the question he had asked at the beginning of the meeting.

52. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) had voted against the Pakistan amendment, which he had not considered judicious as he was convinced that, if the Secretariat effectively applied the draft resolution adopted, it would be possible to make yet more substantial reductions than those which were foreseen. On the other hand, his delegation had had no difficulty in approving the Brazilian, United States and Ecuadorian amendments, which it felt to be very constructive and consistent with the objectives of the draft resolution. He was convinced that the effective application of the draft resolution which had just been adopted would make it possible to produce documentation in a more efficient manner and would contribute to the more efficient and economical functioning of the Organization.

53. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) explained, in reply to a question which had been asked at the previous meeting, that the problem of distributing documents in all the languages simultaneously was extremely complex. It had already been discussed in 1966 and 1967; in paragraph 4 of resolution 2292 (XXII), the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General "to take all measures to ensure a more effective presentation and communication of the documents in due time and simultaneously in the working languages". That request had also been made in resolution 2247 (XXI) and the Secretariat had since spared no effort in acting upon it.

54. Nevertheless, a translation could obviously not be issued as quickly as an original; the fact was that in New

York the great majority of the documents were prepared in English. Thus, in 1970, 13,000 pages of texts prepared in English had been submitted for translation into French, 27,000 for translation into Spanish, 24,000 for translation into Russian and 4,500 for translation into Chinese, while only 4,500 pages of texts prepared in French had been submitted for translation into English. In Geneva, the situation was slightly different and there was a better balance.

55. Some progress had been achieved with regard to sessional documents, such as resolutions and reports, and to a lesser degree with regard to other documents. There was still a time-lag, however, in distribution: the Secretariat could not, for lack of storage space and because of fire hazards, hold back the distribution of a document in the original language until the translations had been issued. He assured members of the Committee, however, that the Secretariat would continue, as in the past, to do its very utmost to distribute documents as quickly as possible in all the working languages.

56. Mr. GOUAMBA (Congo) said that the reply of the Under-Secretary-General was not entirely satisfactory. A document would sometimes be prepared in a language other than English, but that did not mean that it was distributed more quickly in the original language simply because it was often translated or recast into English for purposes of publication, and then retranslated into the other languages. Such a case had occurred in 1970 in connexion with the Security Council Special Mission to the Republic of Guinea, after which, although nearly all interviews had taken place in French, the French-speaking delegations had had to wait nearly a week before receiving the documents. Furthermore, when a French-speaking staff member was recruited into the Secretariat, he was asked whether he knew English, whereas an English-speaking candidate was not asked whether he knew French.

57. Mr. HOFFMAN (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a question raised by the representative of Kenya at the beginning of the meeting, said that it would usually be quite difficult to compile in a single document the various amendments submitted at a meeting, firstly because time would be lost waiting until all amendments had been submitted before they could be translated, and secondly, because that might make it difficult to apply rule 132 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly regarding the order in which amendments should be put to the vote. But he assured the representative of Kenya that his suggestion would be borne in mind whenever possible.

*Question raised regarding document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, concerning the format of the reports of the Fifth Committee\**

58. Mr. GUPTA (India) pointed out that the Committee had before it a proposal by Hungary and India (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16) that had not yet been considered.

59. The CHAIRMAN replied that, in his opinion, operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution adopted, as amended, took account of the proposal by Hungary and

India. However, if the representative of India insisted, that proposal would be put to the vote.

60. Mr. GUPTA (India) considered that the proposal by Hungary and India was much more explicit than paragraph 3 of the draft. He assumed that the Committee would want to start applying the draft resolution regarding the reduction of documentation, which it had just adopted so overwhelmingly. He particularly had in mind the arrangement of the report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly on the budget estimates, which was a voluminous—and in part useless—document. If paragraph 3 implied that its provisions would be implemented with effect from the current session, he was prepared to withdraw his proposal; otherwise, he would be obliged to press for a vote on it.

61. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) considered, unlike the representative of India, that there was no difference between paragraph 3 of the draft resolution adopted by the Committee and the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16. Furthermore, the Committee had already taken a decision on the draft; if the Indian delegation insisted, he felt that it would be necessary to apply rule 132 of the rules of procedure.

62. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he did not think a reply had been given to the representative of India, who had asked whether the report of the Fifth Committee at its current session would be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the draft resolution just adopted. If so, he would not insist on a vote; otherwise, he would support the Indian representative's request.

63. Mr. GUPTA (India) thanked the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and explained that he hoped the draft resolution adopted would be implemented immediately and not with effect from the twenty-seventh session.

64. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that he was confident that the Rapporteur, in preparing the report of the current session, would bear in mind the decision just taken by the Committee.

65. The CHAIRMAN acknowledged that there was a slight difference between document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16 and paragraph 3 of the draft resolution just adopted, but added that the provisions of the resolution would be implemented with effect from the current session. He therefore hoped that the Indian delegation would not press its proposal.

66. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, said that he would be guided by the Committee to ensure that his work fully conformed to its wishes. Consequently, if it was the Committee's wish that the draft resolution should be applied to its report with effect from the current session, he would try to comply with that wish.

67. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that, in the matter of procedure, the Fifth Committee should conduct itself in accordance with the decisions that it took; there was no need for the Committee, in implementing its decisions, to wait until the General Assembly had adopted the draft resolution in question.

\* See 1454th and 1455th meetings.

68. Mr. GUPTA (India) shared the Controller's opinion and considered that rule 132 of the rules of procedure did not apply in that particular case.

69. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that, if the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16 was put to the vote, his delegation would find difficulty in supporting it. Paragraph 3 of the draft resolution adopted was quite clear regarding the time for the implementation of its provisions, whereas in the document in question the expression used—"in future"—was much less clear.

70. Mr. SELMECI (Hungary) pointed out that the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16 had been submitted during the general discussion on agenda item 76 and that it applied only to documents of the Fifth Committee, whereas the draft resolution adopted applied to all documents prepared for the General Assembly. The delegations of India and Hungary sought a reduction in the length of the report of the Fifth Committee to the Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, and he felt that it would be very helpful for the Rapporteur if a decision was taken immediately.

71. Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia) said that he did not understand why the question was being raised again. The Committee had before it a proposal by the Brazilian

delegation to the effect that a vote be taken on whether the Committee should vote on the proposal submitted by Hungary and India. He supported the Brazilian proposal.

72. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) pointed out that most representatives did not have document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16; hence they found it difficult to take a decision at the current meeting. He therefore suggested that the question be deferred until the next meeting.

73. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he had no objection to deleting the words "in future" from his proposal. For his delegation, as for that of Hungary, the important point was the immediate application of the draft resolution adopted.

74. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on whether it would vote on the proposal of Hungary and India (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16).

*There were 14 votes in favour and none against, with 25 abstentions.*

75. The CHAIRMAN said that in the absence of a quorum, a decision could not be taken on the proposal by Hungary and India.

*The meeting rose at 11 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOC-  
UMENT A/L.645 AND ADD.1 AND 2 CONCERNING  
AGENDA ITEM 95\* (A/8408/ADD.17, A/C.5/1412)**

1. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that he whole-heartedly supported paragraph 2 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.17) because he firmly believed that the necessary manpower existed within the Secretariat to carry out the work envisaged in draft resolution A/L.645 and Add.1 and 2 and that the addition of a new post, even on a provisional basis, was not justified. He was opposed to the tendency of the Secretariat to ask for the addition of new posts whenever new activities were undertaken and he thought that existing resources could be utilized.

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should report directly to the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution A/L.645 and Add.1 and 2, no additional appropriation would be required for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)\*\***  
(for the documentation, see 1472nd meeting)

*First reading (continued)\*\*\**  
(A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)

**SECTION 16. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/C.5/1400)**

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider in first reading section 16 of the budget estimates for 1972 on UNIDO. He pointed out that, in the initial estimates (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3), the Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$13,123,100 under that section. In paragraph 278 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended a reduction of \$169,100 which would reduce the appropriation to \$12,954,000.

4. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the appropriation requested under section 16 was only to enable UNIDO to continue in 1972 the level of activities it was carrying out in 1971. It did not take account of the possible financial implications of the Special International Conference of UNIDO or of the meeting of the Industrial Development Board. Any financial implications resulting from decisions which the Second Committee might take on the matter would be covered by revised estimates which would be submitted to the Fifth Committee when section 16 was considered in second reading.

5. The Advisory Committee had gone to Vienna in spring 1971 and had discussed the UNIDO estimates for 1972 with the Executive Director of that organization. The reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee amounted to only \$169,100 and was made up in the following manner: \$15,000 under chapter I (Sixth session of the Industrial Development Board and meetings of its subsidiary organs), \$10,000 under chapter II (Meetings of expert and advisory bodies), \$10,000 under chapter III (Salaries and wages), \$80,000 under chapter IV (Common staff costs), \$15,000 under chapter V (Travel of staff), \$25,000 under chapter IX (General expenses), and \$14,100 under chapter XI (Headquarters planning and administrative management). The reduction recommended under chapter III applied to consultants and not to permanent staff. In connexion with that chapter, he drew attention to the comments made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 264 and 265 of its report, which the Committee should take into account when considering the revised estimates. The Advisory Committee had recommended a relatively large reduction under chapter IV, basing its recommendation on the level of staff for 1971 and the fact that it believed that the amount of travel costs and installation and removal expenses had been overestimated. The Advisory Committee thought that the reduction recommended under chapter V could be applied without detriment to the work of UNIDO. As for chapter IX, the Advisory Committee shared the concern of the Executive Director of UNIDO with regard to the continuing high expenditure on communications. As indicated in paragraph 274 of its report, during its consideration of the UNIDO estimates for 1972, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the Executive Director had reviewed the use of cable and telephone services and that he had endeavoured to put an end to the considerable laxity which had been revealed in the use of those expensive means of communication. The need for economy had been brought to the attention of the staff of UNIDO in an information circular and the Advisory Committee understood that if there was no improvement in 1971, the Executive Director would initiate new arrangements to ensure the proper use

\* Scientific work on peace research.

\*\* Resumed from the 1472nd meeting.

\*\*\* Resumed from the 1469th meeting.

of resources. Lastly, he explained that the very modest reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee under chapter XI applied principally to the costs of consultants.

6. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade the General Assembly had attached special importance to the industrialization of the developing countries and had set a target of an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent. UNIDO's work programme, which the Industrial Development Board had approved in order to attain that target, was to be carried out on three fronts: at the country, sectoral and global levels. UNIDO should work towards the objectives of the Strategy in close co-operation with the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut and other relevant agencies. Particular attention was to be accorded to the problems concerning the least developed among the developing countries and the relationship between industrialization and employment. In view of the importance which his delegation attached to the activities of UNIDO within the framework of the International Development Strategy, he was surprised to note in paragraph 263 of the Advisory Committee's report that as of 11 May 1971 UNIDO had had 34 vacant Professional posts and that a further 33 such posts had been held by incumbents appointed for less than one year. He would like to know whether those vacancies were caused by difficulties in recruiting staff with the requisite qualifications or by the inadequate salaries offered. He added that his own country appreciated the technical assistance which UNIDO continued to provide.

7. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that his country attached great importance to the activities of UNIDO and he was concerned to note that in paragraph 257 of its report the Advisory Committee recommended that every effort be made to reduce UNIDO's documentation. He had already mentioned the importance which he attached to that documentation, which was essential for the developing countries.

8. With regard to the "considerable laxity" in the use of means of communication, referred to in paragraph 274 of the Advisory Committee's report, he said he would like to know the amount involved and what new arrangements the Executive Director would have to initiate to ensure the proper use of resources.

9. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) asked for clarification on the comment made by the Advisory Committee at the end of paragraph 269 of its report and on the increase in the cost of computer services mentioned in paragraph 275.

10. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee relating to section 16, in particular those in paragraphs 265, 267, 270 and 274 of its report. Like the representative of Argentina, he would like to know whether the situation concerning the use of means of communication had improved.

11. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the

situation concerning the use of means of communication was currently the subject of a review being carried out by the Executive Director himself. When the Advisory Committee had been in Vienna, the situation had been as described in paragraph 274 of its report. He did not know if that situation had improved since then and whether the Executive Director was planning to take any further steps.

12. With regard to the use of computer services, the Director General of IAEA and the Executive Director of UNIDO had both considered the possibility of using the services of the International Computing Centre at Geneva but they had come to the conclusion that it would not be economical to use the Centre at the present time. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General should consider the matter with the Director General of IAEA and the Executive Director of UNIDO.

13. Mr. COIDAN (Director, Budget Division), replying to the question put by the representative of Ghana, said that currently there were 30 Professional posts vacant at UNIDO and that it would not be easy to reduce that figure since most of the Professional posts which UNIDO needed required special technical knowledge and it was difficult to find sufficiently well-qualified candidates. The majority were already employed in industry and hesitated to give up their jobs to enter UNIDO's service for a very long period. They therefore accepted only short-term appointments, a fact which led to a considerable turnover of staff and explained the high number of vacant posts.

14. In reply to the question put by the representative of the United States, he said that the Executive Director of UNIDO had in fact made arrangements to ensure that a more moderate use was made of telephone and cable services and that any correspondence which was not of an absolutely urgent nature was sent by regular mail. But UNIDO's work programme was constantly increasing and spectacular reductions should not be expected from those measures.

15. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) thanked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for his reply and said that he would like to know the amount of the expenditure resulting from the laxity mentioned in paragraph 274 of the report.

16. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that it was a pity that UNIDO was not represented in the Committee.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the Executive Director of UNIDO could not leave Vienna and the representatives of UNIDO in New York were attending the debates in the Second Committee, which was considering the UNIDO work programme. He pointed out that the Committee was considering section 16 in first reading and would have an opportunity, if some delegations so desired, to hear a representative of UNIDO when it took up the section in second reading.

18. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the Argentine representative, said that he could not supply any precise information concerning the amount involved. He read out a circular which the Executive Director of

UNIDO had distributed to the staff on 3 December 1970 requesting it to use the means of communication available to it with greater moderation.

19. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) said that in view of the steady growth of UNIDO, the Austrian Government had made available a second building adjacent to the one currently occupied by the organization. The work of preparing it for occupancy was to be completed in the third quarter of 1972. Furthermore, there had been considerable progress in the work relating to the planning and construction of the permanent headquarters of UNIDO and IAEA. The Austrian Government and the City of Vienna had selected a plan drawn up by an Austrian architect and, in recognition of the importance of the project, had formed a company to carry it out most efficiently and as rapidly as possible.

20. Accordingly, the Austrian authorities would assume the costs of providing offices for UNIDO which would accommodate 1,813 people in 1977. They would also provide housing for 453 people, thus taking into account a 5 per cent annual increase in staff over the period 1970-1981. By 1981, the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna would have provided offices for UNIDO and IAEA accommodating a total of over 4,500 people.

21. Once the building—which was twice as big as the one Austria had originally offered to build—was completed, his Government considered that it would have discharged its obligations towards the United Nations in full. After taking a decision concerning the dimensions of the building, the Austrian Government had requested UNIDO and IAEA to indicate the functional specifications they wanted observed and detailed plans were being prepared of the two headquarters buildings on the basis of those specifications. Consultations with UNIDO and IAEA on the question of common services were still going on. The company which was to execute the project had been installed in a building near the construction site, where offices had also been set aside for UNIDO and IAEA in order to facilitate consultations between those responsible for the plans and the future occupants of the premises.

22. The Advisory Committee had visited Vienna in May 1971 to review the administrative and management procedures of IAEA. It had drafted an excellent report on the subject.<sup>1</sup> His delegation had noted with satisfaction the comments in paragraph 70 of the report concerning the accommodation provided by Austria for the headquarters of the Agency. It assured the members of the Committee that the Austrian authorities would continue to do everything possible to create optimal working conditions for UNIDO and IAEA and to making living in Vienna easier for their respective staffs.

23. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that he believed he was speaking for all the members of the Committee when he expressed appreciation for the generosity of the Austrian Government, which remained faithful to its tradition of hospitality and diplomatic co-operation. When the members of the Advisory Committee were in Vienna in May 1971,

they had had an opportunity to see the *maquette* model of the building projects and to visit the magnificent site selected for the construction of the buildings. He wished to express the appreciation of the members of the Advisory Committee for the attention and cordiality shown them by the Austrian Government.

24. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that he wished to express his warm appreciation for the Austrian Government's generosity towards the United Nations. The important work of IAEA in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy and of UNIDO in assisting the developing countries in their industrial development would be accomplished in an appropriate physical environment in the grandiose centre which the Austrian Government intended to build on the banks of the Danube. The beauty of the complex to be constructed on the banks of that historic river should make that new United Nations centre an impressive landmark for future generations.

25. His delegation once again wished to convey its appreciation to the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna for their generosity and their important contribution to the cause of international co-operation and world peace, and for their support of the ideals which the United Nations represented. It wished to express its best wishes for the completion of the proposed construction project as quickly as possible.

26. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) once again emphasized how much the Fifth Committee appreciated the efforts of the Austrian Government to provide accommodation for the various members of the United Nations family on the banks of the Danube. He proposed that the Rapporteur should be requested to insert a paragraph in the Committee's report expressing the Organization's appreciation to the Austrian Government. He asked the Austrian representative to convey the gratitude of the members of the Committee to his Government.

27. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) felt that the efforts and generosity of the people and Government of Austria towards the United Nations should serve as an example. He supported the Belgian proposal to request the Rapporteur to express, in the Committee's report, the warm appreciation of the United Nations to the Austrian Government for its generosity in providing temporary accommodation for UNIDO and building the permanent headquarters of the organization.

28. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation associated itself with those which had expressed appreciation to the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna, which were doing everything possible to create optimal working conditions for UNIDO and IAEA.

29. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the budget estimates under section 16 had been made in a reasonable manner in the expectation of a reasonable growth. No new posts had been requested and his delegation supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. However, it had some reservations concerning expenditure on consultants and hoped that the Fifth Committee's decision on that subject would be taken into account in future. It also

<sup>1</sup> Document A/8447/Rev.1, pertaining to agenda item 81, issued separately (offset).

supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the costs of communications and its request for an over-all reduction of \$169,100 in the estimates under section 16. It would accordingly vote in favour of the appropriation recommended for that section.

30. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation was disturbed by the amount of funds allocated to UNIDO. However, it would agree to the Advisory Committee's proposal in the hope that the approved appropriation would be sufficient to enable UNIDO to discharge its functions.

31. In connexion with paragraph 267 of the Advisory Committee's report, which stated that there was room for improvement in the use of consultants in relation to particular work activities, his delegation wished to know what measures had been taken to remedy the situation.

32. The Philippine delegation associated itself with those which had expressed appreciation to the Austrian Government.

33. The CHAIRMAN also wished to thank the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations for coming to the Fifth Committee personally to present a report on the progress of the construction of UNIDO headquarters in Vienna.

34. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) thanked the previous speakers for the kind remarks they had addressed to himself and the Austrian Government and said that he was grateful for their recognition of the difficulties encountered by his Government in the construction of the United Nations centre in Vienna.

35. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Austrian Government.

36. Considering that the Second Committee was discussing the question of UNIDO, he wondered whether the Fifth Committee could take a decision on the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the UNIDO budget before it knew the Second Committee's decision, as well as its administrative and financial implications.

37. His delegation also wanted to know the total estimated expenditure in 1972 on salaries relating to the 30 or more vacant posts in UNIDO and to what extent that expenditure could offset the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 16. In that connexion, it had reservations concerning any reduction which would affect development programmes.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee would be able to take account of the administrative and financial implications of decisions taken by the Second Committee when it considered the revised estimates. Consequently, there was no reason why it should not take a decision concerning section 16 in first reading.

39. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) also wished to thank the Austrian Government for the arrangements it had made for the construction of a building for IAEA and UNIDO, whose work was of capital importance for the developing countries.

40. His delegation regarded industrial development as an essential factor in the over-all development process and the reduction of the gap between the have and the have-not countries. He therefore felt that the recruiting of industrial consultants was of the highest importance and asked what measures had been taken on the decision under the terms of which UNDP was to provide a greater number of external industrial consultants. His delegation also wished to know whether the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee would not jeopardize UNIDO's programmes; it would accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation provided it did not hamper the implementation of those programmes.

41. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) associated himself with the delegations which had expressed their appreciation to the Austrian Government for its generous contribution to UNIDO's work, and accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation on section 16.

42. Mr. FAURA (Peru) associated himself with the representatives who had thanked the Austrian Government and people for their generosity.

43. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) congratulated the Austrian Government for the magnificent work it was doing with regard to UNIDO, an organization of great importance for the developing countries.

44. He associated himself with the request of the Colombian representative for clarification concerning the vacant posts in UNIDO.

45. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) asked the Permanent Representative of Austria kindly to convey Pakistan's appreciation to his Government. As a developing country, Pakistan attached the greatest importance to UNIDO's work.

46. The Pakistan delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations on section 16.

47. Mr. COIDAN (Director, Budget Division), replying to the question put by the representative of Colombia, explained that he could not provide the list of the 30 vacant posts at that juncture but that the savings achieved totalled about \$500,000. However, it should be remembered that for purposes of calculating the estimates for established posts, a turnover deduction was applied to take account of vacant posts. The deduction was of the order of 5 per cent, which represented nearly \$500,000, so that the major part of the anticipated savings had already been achieved when the budget was being prepared.

48. With regard to the question put by the representative of Algeria, he could state that discussions were in progress between UNIDO and UNDP on the number of external industrial consultants required; it would probably be increased from 10 to 20. However, no firm decision had yet been taken, since UNDP was currently considering the question.

49. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to approve in first reading the appropriation of \$12,954,000 recom-



mended by the Advisory Committee under section 16 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 278) for an appropriation of \$12,954,000 under section 16 was approved in first reading by 76 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 79

**Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):\***  
(b) Committee on Contributions (A/8352, A/C.5/1370, A/C.5/1387 and Add.1)

50. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed to the election to fill the five vacancies which would arise in the membership of the Committee on Contributions when the terms of office of current members expired on 31 December 1971.

51. As stated in document A/C.5/1387 and Add.1, the Government of Brazil had proposed Mr. Silveira da Mota for reappointment, and the Governments of the United Kingdom, Ghana, Somalia, and Canada had proposed Miss Whalley, Mr. Cleland, Mr. Farah and Mr. Matheson, respectively.

52. Subject to the provisions of rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, members of the Committee were free to vote for the candidates of their choice, whether or not they had been officially nominated.

53. Mr. RUIZ DE GAMBOA (Chile) wanted to know whether a person could serve on several committees.

54. The CHAIRMAN replied that Mr. Rhodes, who had represented the United Kingdom on the Committee on Contributions, had done so, and that there was nothing in the rules of procedure to prevent a person from serving on more than one committee.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Brown (Australia) and Mr. Johnson (Togo) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	79
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	2
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	77
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	77
<i>Required majority:</i>	39

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Silveira da Mota . . . . .	69
Miss Whalley . . . . .	69
Mr. Cleland . . . . .	65
Mr. Farah . . . . .	52
Mr. Matheson . . . . .	66
Eight other persons . . . . .	20

*Having obtained the required majority, Mr. David Silveira da Mota (Brazil), Miss Kathleen Whalley (United Kingdom)*

*of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Mr. Joseph Q. Cleland (Ghana), Mr. Abdulrahim Farah (Somalia) and Mr. Angus Matheson (Canada) were recommended by the Committee for appointment as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1972.*

55. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should report the results of the election directly to the General Assembly.

*It was so decided.*

56. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed with the election to fill the one vacancy in the Committee on Contributions that would arise as a result of the resignation, effective 31 December 1971, of Mr. Seymour M. Finger (United States of America).

57. As proposed in document A/C.5/1370, the United States Government had proposed Mr. David L. Stottlemeyer for election to the Committee on Contributions for the unexpired portion of Mr. Finger's term of office. i.e. until 31 December 1973.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Brown (Australia) and Mr. Johnson (Togo) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	72
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	72
<i>Abstentions:</i>	6
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	66
<i>Required majority:</i>	34

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Stottlemeyer . . . . .	69
One other person . . . . .	1

*Having obtained the required majority, Mr. David L. Stottlemeyer (United States of America) was recommended by the Committee for appointment as a member of the Committee on Contributions for the period from 1 January 1972 to 31 December 1973.*

58. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should report the result of the election directly to the General Assembly.

*It was so decided.*

59. Mr. PICK (Canada) expressed his delegation's satisfaction on the election of Mr. Matheson.

60. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana), Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) and Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) thanked the members of the Committee for their expression of confidence and assured them that they would make every effort to prove worthy of that confidence.

\* Resumed from the 1437th meeting.



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
THIRD COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8430/ADD.1  
CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 59\* (A/8408/ADD.18,  
A/C.5/1409 AND CORR.1)**

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1409 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee (A/8430/Add.1, para. 9), in which he estimated the additional cost of implementing the provisions of the draft at \$62,000, taking into account the \$18,000 savings which would result from locating the office for disaster relief questions at Genève rather than in New York. In addition, an increase of \$17,400 in income from staff assessment was anticipated. The relevant report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was issued as document A/8408/Add.18.

2. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, which indicated that the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee was not confined to programme matters but also dealt with several administrative and budgetary aspects which were within the competence of the Fifth Committee. In view of the fact that it was not the first time such duplication had occurred, the Advisory Committee felt it would be useful, in the interest of orderly budgetary procedures, to recommend that the Secretary-General should ensure that, whenever a Main Committee was asked to act upon a proposal which fell within the field of competence of the Fifth Committee, the secretariat of that Main Committee should draw the matter to its attention so that the proposal might be referred to the Fifth Committee for consideration. Two questions which the Fifth Committee might wish to consider in the present case were the level of the post of the disaster relief co-ordinator, and whether he should devote himself full-time to the duties laid down in the draft resolution. After indicating the financial implications of the two alternatives, the Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that the personnel to be seconded to the office of the co-ordinator in cases of individual emergencies should, to the fullest extent possible, be provided from within the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and that attempts should also be made to secure personnel from

Governments and organizations on a non-reimbursable basis. The Advisory Committee felt that provisions for the financing of assistance in cases of natural disaster might properly be inserted in the annual General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

3. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his country had always supplied, and always would supply, considerable assistance in cases of natural disaster on a bilateral basis. His delegation had no objection to appropriating a specific amount in the Organization's budget for assistance in cases of natural disaster, in accordance with a resolution adopted to that end. However, considering that the assistance envisaged in General Assembly resolution 2435 (XXIII), concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster, was of the order of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster, his delegation did not feel it was reasonable to propose establishing a post of co-ordinator with the rank of Under-Secretary-General and a staff of four. It would be preferable to use persons already on the staff.

4. It approved the observations in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report which, in fact, noted a violation of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Third Committee had obviously encroached on the competence of the Fifth Committee and that anomaly should be pointed out. However, his delegation could not support the Advisory Committee's report as a whole because it contained recommendations that, though couched in vague terms, dealt with the establishment of an office and post of disaster relief co-ordinator.

5. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that, although it was a sponsor of the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee, his delegation recognized that rule 101 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly had not been strictly observed. However, he wished to emphasize that the Third Committee had not in any way intended to encroach on the competence of the Fifth Committee and that it had been inspired only by the desire to take steps so that assistance might be provided as quickly as possible to countries that had suffered natural disasters. Bilateral assistance was, indeed, useful but it was the international community's duty to organize itself with a view to providing immediate assistance to countries that needed it.

6. With regard to the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 4 of the draft resolution, his delegation was concerned at the Secretariat's tendency immediately to establish a new unit as soon as a new task was envisaged, without first trying to use the available staff. It was true that paragraph 1 of the draft resolution laid down a large number of tasks for the disaster relief co-ordinator but if the Geneva personnel

\* Assistance in cases of natural disaster: report of the Secretary-General.

already dealing with related questions were used, some savings might be achieved. Consequently, his delegation endorsed the conclusions in the Advisory Committee's report.

7. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that his delegation had always been in favour of strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of assistance in cases of natural disaster. It felt that the post of relief co-ordinator must be of a sufficiently high level to attract candidates of outstanding calibre and to enable the co-ordinator, once he was appointed, to carry out the task referred to in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, and particularly in its subparagraphs (a) and (b). Consequently, the United States delegation was prepared to approve an additional appropriation of \$62,000 for 1972.

8. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) associated himself with the observations of the United States representative.

9. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria), while recognizing the value of bilateral assistance in cases of natural disaster, approved the intention of the sponsors of the Third Committee's draft resolution. However, his delegation felt, as did the Advisory Committee, that the Third Committee had proceeded irregularly and it approved the recommendations in paragraphs 8 and 10 of the Advisory Committee's report. The establishment of an office responsible for co-ordinating relief in cases of natural disaster would be desirable but the cost of such an office should not be disproportionate to the tasks envisaged. He felt, in particular, that an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff might act as disaster relief co-ordinator, initially at least.

10. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) approved the establishment of an office for disaster relief co-ordination. It was essential that the post of co-ordinator should be sufficiently senior to attract candidates of the highest quality. Her delegation was therefore in favour of establishing a post of Under-Secretary-General to that end and of appropriating an additional \$62,000.

11. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that his delegation had always stressed the need for co-ordinating assistance in cases of natural disaster. However, it had some reservations on the proposed level of the co-ordinator's post. In so far as there were already a number of channels for providing relief, his delegation associated itself with the Nigerian delegation in recommending moderation and suggesting that the task of co-ordinator of operations should be given, at least at first, to an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff. Furthermore, his delegation was not sure that the level of Under-Secretary-General would be the most appropriate for the co-ordinator and in that respect it shared the views expressed in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report.

12. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) recognized that the Third Committee had encroached a little on the Fifth Committee's prerogatives and endorsed the observations in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report. With regard to the question of the level of the co-ordinator his delegation felt it would be wise to see first how the relief co-ordination office would operate before taking a decision on the matter.

13. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) whole-heartedly approved the objectives of the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee and endorsed the recommendations in paragraphs 6 and 8 of the Advisory Committee's report. He associated himself with the remarks of the representatives of Canada, Nigeria and Iraq and agreed that the Secretary-General could, indeed, designate an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff to act as co-ordinator, in order to avoid any additional administrative expenditure.

14. His delegation wondered whether, in order to lend more weight to its recommendations, the Fifth Committee should not depart from its usual practice and, instead of merely indicating to the General Assembly that it approved the views of the Advisory Committee, present a draft resolution taking up the points raised by the Advisory Committee. That would give the General Assembly a clear and complete picture of the recommendations of the Third Committee and of those of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee.

15. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that assistance in cases of natural disaster should be provided essentially on a bilateral basis, with the participation of the United Nations, UNICEF and the competent specialized agencies. It was not necessary to establish a new post of Under-Secretary-General, which would only make the administrative machinery of the United Nations more cumbersome. The Secretary-General could designate an Under-Secretary-General already on his staff to act as the disaster relief co-ordinator, as suggested by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. He also approved the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 5 and 6 of its report.

16. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) supported the Advisory Committee's conclusion in paragraph 6 of its report. The question under study provided a good example of the difficulties which were likely to arise when the sponsors of a draft resolution adopted by another Main Committee of the General Assembly were not sufficiently aware of the competence of the Fifth Committee regarding administrative and budgetary matters. Although his delegation had been a sponsor of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, he shared the view expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 7 of its report and felt that the Fifth Committee should make its own decision independently on the level of the post of co-ordinator, the establishment of which was provided for in the draft resolution. It was probable that the Third Committee would have adopted a slightly different text if its attention had been drawn to the competence of the Fifth Committee regarding administrative and budgetary matters. He shared the view expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 10 of its report, namely, that personnel to be seconded to the office of the co-ordinator in cases of emergency should as far as possible be provided from within the Secretariat of the United Nations and those of the specialized agencies. He also shared the view expressed in paragraph 11 of the report and felt that if the Fifth Committee approved that paragraph, paragraph 10 of the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee would become superfluous.

17. Regarding the category of the new post envisaged, he did not think that the co-ordinator should necessarily be an

Under-Secretary-General, at least during the initial stage, and in that respect he shared the view expressed by the representatives of Nigeria, Canada, Iraq and Italy. He favoured, therefore, the solution suggested by the Advisory Committee in the second part of paragraph 8 of its report. If, however, the Committee decided to establish a new post of Under-Secretary-General, he would formally propose the elimination of the D-2 post recommended by the Secretary-General.

18. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that, despite its resolute opposition to any enlargement of the administration, his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, because it attached particular importance to assistance in cases of natural disaster and because it seemed that the establishment of the new office envisaged would not result in an excessive growth of the administrative machinery. He approved, therefore, the suggested solution put forward in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report and also the proposal put forward by the representative of Brazil. He also supported paragraph 6 of the report, which he felt was particularly important for the future operations of the Main Committees of the General Assembly; he felt that the Fifth Committee should make a recommendation in that connexion.

19. Mr. TCHICAYA (Gabon) said that when the draft resolution in question had been adopted by the Third Committee, his delegation had expressed certain reservations regarding the establishment of a post of disaster relief co-ordinator. There was already a Red Cross committee at Geneva responsible for that task and his delegation felt that a proliferation of services to serve the same needs should be avoided.

20. Mr. NAUDY (France) supported every point of the conclusions reached by the Advisory Committee in its report. He particularly approved the observations made in paragraph 6 regarding the competence of the Fifth Committee and the need to avoid any conflict of competence in order to ensure a healthy budgetary procedure. He also appreciated the advice on the need for discretion given by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of its report and shared the opinion of the representatives of Nigeria, Canada, Italy and Gabon. He also supported paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report, which seemed to him to be relevant.

21. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) supported the provisions of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, of which his delegation had been a sponsor. He recognized, however, that the conclusions of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of its report were well-founded, and agreed in that connexion with the observations made by the representatives of Canada and Nigeria.

22. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) recognized the need to co-ordinate assistance operations in cases of natural disaster and felt, like the representative of Italy, that it was not necessary to establish a new post for that purpose, since the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs or the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva could very well undertake that task.

23. Mr. DILER (Turkey) favoured the establishment of a post of co-ordinator with the rank of Under-Secretary-General and assisted by a permanent office. He felt that the rank of the co-ordinator should be consistent with the importance of his functions.

24. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that his delegation, as a sponsor of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, favoured the establishment of a post of co-ordinator with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. The observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of its report were justified since it was necessary to avoid in the future any conflict of competences such as the one facing them currently.

25. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that his delegation, which had voted in favour of the draft resolution in question, approved its intentions but recognized that the solution proposed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of its report was not without merit since it suggested a more economical way to resolve the problem of the co-ordination of disaster relief assistance. He was pleased to note the understanding and the flexibility shown by the sponsors of the draft resolution in respect of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. He supported unreservedly the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 6 and 8 of its report, and also the proposal made by the representative of Brazil. The Fifth Committee should submit a draft resolution to the General Assembly, approving the aims of the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee, but suggesting a different method of procedure.

26. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that, like the other sponsors of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, his delegation recognized that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee were sound. It shared the view of the representatives of Canada and Nigeria and wondered, with regard to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, whether it was really necessary to appoint as head of the office envisaged a co-ordinator with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. A D-2 official could very well handle that task, the more so since natural disasters were, by their nature, unpredictable. He supported the Brazilian suggestion that the Committee should submit a draft resolution based on the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and proposed that the representative of Brazil take the initiative on the draft.

27. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden), whose delegation was also a sponsor of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, said that he supported unreservedly the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. After due reflection, his delegation was in favour of the creation of a post of co-ordinator with the rank of Under-Secretary-General, assisted by a permanent staff at Geneva. It also recognized, however, that the solution suggested in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report was not without merit and it was very difficult for him to make a decision on the question at that moment. His delegation formally requested, therefore, that the Committee defer taking any decision until the next day.

28. Mr. REFŠHAL (Norway) supported the Swedish representative's request, since it was also very difficult for

his delegation to make an immediate decision on the matter. His delegation attached great importance to the draft resolution, of which it was also a sponsor. In recommending that the level of the post of co-ordinator should be comparable to that of an Under-Secretary-General, it had been the wish of the sponsors of the draft resolution that the co-ordinator be an official of the highest competence and that he should have the necessary authority to treat with Heads of Governments. He was sure that the Under-Secretaries-General already in office had the competence and authority required, but it did not seem desirable that the co-ordinator should divide his duties between those of co-ordination and those of a head of department, because, as natural catastrophes occurred unexpectedly, he must be available at all times to travel to various countries in order to organize any assistance necessary.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that he was reluctant to agree to the request of the Swedish and Norwegian representatives because, in order not to delay the work of the General Assembly, the Committee should take decisions on the financial implications of the various draft resolutions adopted by other Committees as and when those resolutions were submitted to it. The Brazilian representative's suggestion that the Committee should submit its recommendations to the General Assembly in the form of a draft resolution involved certain difficulties and some degree of risk as well in that it might not be adopted by the General Assembly. It would be wiser for the Committee to submit its recommendations on the Advisory Committee's report in its own report to the Assembly.

30. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he fully agreed with the Chairman. Nevertheless, the Committee should not merely indicate in its report, as was its usual practice, that it approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations. It should in addition inform the General Assembly of the implications of those recommendations, if they were adopted, and of the way in which the Third Committee's draft resolution would be altered in consequence.

31. The CHAIRMAN agreed, at the request of the Swedish and Norwegian representatives, to postpone further consideration of the question until the following day.

#### AGENDA ITEM 101

##### Amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/8495 and Corr.1)

32. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly proposed by the representative of Pakistan in his letter of 1 December 1971 to the Secretary-General (see A/8495 and Corr.1) would have financial implications under sections 1, 5 and 7 of the budget estimates for 1972, as follows: \$6,400 under section 1 (Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies) if the representative in question was based in New York and \$10,700 if he was based elsewhere; \$6,000 under section 5 (Travel of staff) for the travel and subsistence allowance of three interpreters who would be sent from New York to Geneva; and

\$3,500 under section 7 (Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises) for the construction of an interpretation booth in the room in which the Advisory Committee held its meetings. Those financial implications would not involve any additional appropriation because they would be met from within existing resources under sections 1, 5 and 7.

33. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that the Committee should defer its consideration of the Pakistan proposal until a written statement of the financial implications was available.

34. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, in the explanatory memorandum issued in document A/8495 and Corr.1, it was proposed to amend rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee from 12 to 13 so that the People's Republic of China would be represented on that Committee. The proposal was sponsored by the delegations of Argentina, Canada, Chile, Guinea, Iraq, Italy and Yemen, as well as his own delegation, and enjoyed the support of many more. The participation of the People's Republic of China in the work of the Advisory Committee would be another step towards the completion of the process set in motion by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). There had been an element of urgency in the introduction of the proposal at the current session because, by becoming a member of the Advisory Committee, the Chinese delegation would gain a panoramic view of the entire budgetary processes of the United Nations. If the question of China's participation in the work of the Advisory Committee was not decided at once, China would have to wait until the twenty-seventh session. It would be regrettable if Chinese participation in the work of such an important committee was delayed for one year, the more so as the Advisory Committee itself would be deprived of the contribution that the Chinese representative could make to its deliberations. His delegation believed that China, which accounted for almost one third of humanity and represented a distinct culture and social system, should, in its own right, be a member of the Advisory Committee. The proposal would in no way change the character of the Advisory Committee, which would remain a small group. The expenditure involved would be minimal and, as the Committee had been informed, could easily be met from within existing resources.

35. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that it was his understanding from the statement by the Controller that the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee concerning agenda item 59 and considered by the Fifth Committee at the beginning of the meeting, would not involve any additional appropriations.

36. Turning to the item under consideration, he said that his delegation was one of the sponsors of the proposal concerning the amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which had been introduced by Pakistan. It believed that the approval of the draft resolution would contribute to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 on the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. Considering that

the People's Republic of China was one of the main contributors to the budget of the United Nations, it was appropriate to ensure its participation in the work of the Advisory Committee whose function was to examine in depth all budgetary requirements and the financial implications of decisions taken by the General Assembly and to advise on any other matter concerning administrative arrangements. The Advisory Committee, composed of a small group of qualified men serving in their personal capacity and elected because of their individual qualifications and experience, met in closed session without summary records and with a minimum of official red tape and was therefore able to conduct its business in the most discreet, speedy and efficient way.

37. Rule 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provided that members of the Advisory Committee should be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation in addition, of course, to their personal qualifications and experience. The amendment of rule 156 proposed by Pakistan seemed to his delegation to meet entirely the need for all organs of the United Nations to reflect the current composition of the Organization. The membership of the Committee had been increased from 9 to 12 in 1961 (General Assembly resolution 1659 (XVI)) to make room for experts from newly independent countries. The current geographical distribution of members of the Advisory Committee was carefully established so as to achieve a well-balanced representation of the States Members of the United Nations. While it was essential that that careful geographical balance should not be altered and that the membership of the Committee should not be enlarged unduly, it was evident that, as the People's Republic of China was a Member of the United Nations, a duly qualified expert designated by that great country should be admitted to the Advisory Committee to help it provide the General Assembly with the necessary administrative and budgetary advice.

38. His delegation hoped that the delegation of China would soon take its place in the Fifth Committee and that it would make a highly valuable contribution to the work of the Advisory Committee. It was confident that the Fifth Committee would unanimously approve the proposal to increase the membership of the Advisory Committee from 12 to 13 so that an expert designated by the Government of China might be elected to that body.

39. Mr. PICK (Canada) associated his delegation with the Pakistan proposal, which was very simple and consonant with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China. He therefore hoped that the Fifth Committee could take a decision on it without delay.

40. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) associated himself with the comments of the Canadian representative.

41. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) recalled that his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations had stated that his Government was convinced that the entry of the People's Republic of China into the Organization would enable the latter to play a truly universal role and would help it to achieve the aims and objectives of the Charter.

42. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would like to clarify certain points in the debate. His delegation had in no wise opposed the inclusion of the new item in the agenda in the General Committee of the General Assembly. It was merely concerned that the Fifth Committee should conform strictly to rule 154 of the rules of procedure, which provided that no resolution involving expenditure should be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it was accompanied by an estimate of the expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. A written statement of the financial implications of the proposal should be made available to the Fifth Committee before it took a decision.

43. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that, for the reasons stated by the representatives of Pakistan, Italy, Canada, Kenya and Argentina, his delegation would vote in favour of the proposal.

44. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the comments of the representative of the Soviet Union were justified and that a statement of the financial implications would be issued shortly.<sup>1</sup> The reasons why that had not yet been done were purely technical: it had been necessary to request information from Geneva as to the needs of the United Nations Office there with regard to Chinese-language interpreters so that realistic and precise financial implications could be prepared.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.34 AND 43)

45. The CHAIRMAN recalled his earlier suggestion that the consideration of agenda item 77, on the planning estimate for the financial year 1973, and the mock-up of the budget, under item 82, on implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, should be postponed to the twenty-seventh session.

46. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the mock-up of the budget had been communicated to the Advisory Committee half-way through its session. It was a very important document and a great deal of work had gone into its preparation; the Advisory Committee had not been able to give it the attention it deserved. The Committee had had several talks about the report with Mr. Bertrand, a member of the Joint Inspection Unit, and had followed closely the debates in the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination and in the Economic and Social Council. It had also received the alternative form of presentation of the budget<sup>2</sup> considered by CPC. The Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee were therefore called upon to consider both the mock-up of the budget and the alternative presentation. Another question to be considered was what changes were to be made in the executive and deliberative machinery; it would therefore be wise to defer consideration of that question to the

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.44.

<sup>2</sup> Document E/AC.51/L.66 (mimeographed), of 8 November 1971.

following session of the General Assembly, which would permit the Advisory Committee to give the question thorough consideration at its spring session.

47. The Advisory Committee might seem over-cautious to some delegations, and they probably thought that any difficulties that might arise from the adoption of a programme budget would be ironed out bit by bit; the Advisory Committee thought that, before the programme budget was adopted, very firm bases should be established, and it was convinced that one year's postponement of the consideration and adoption of the new format of the budget would not hold up the work of the Organization.

48. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) supported the Chairman's suggestion that consideration of agenda item 77 and of the form of presentation of the budget, under item 82, should be postponed to the next session. He had a few comments to make in that regard, however.

49. Discussing item 77, he said that he assumed the Chairman was suggesting that the Committee should take a similar decision to that which it had taken at the previous session when it had decided to postpone for another year the application of paragraph 7 of resolution 2370 (XXII) of 19 December 1967. He was inclined to accept such a decision in view of the circumstances, on the understanding that it would in no way affect the principle that planning estimates should be approved by the General Assembly every year for the forthcoming second budgetary period.

50. If the Fifth Committee did not receive a planning estimate for the financial year 1973, the Secretary-General should not ask for any new appropriations in the budget estimates for 1973, particularly for staff, except in the amounts required to cover salary and price increases.

51. In the view of the United States delegation, the Secretary-General had made good use of the study made by the Administrative Management Service to ensure the best deployment of staff to carry out the programmes. He now had to review the programmes and see whether they were of high enough priority for staff to be assigned to them. Such a review would certainly reveal that many programmes no longer had high priority and might now be abandoned to make way for new and more important activities. While recognizing that many of the programmes had been started at the request of intergovernmental bodies, he was sure that it lay within the Secretary-General's competence to inform those bodies when he judged that programmes were no longer useful and that it was his duty to do so.

52. As to the mock-up of the budget, it was regrettable that neither the Fifth Committee nor the Advisory Committee had enough time to consider it at the current session. He could agree to the deferment of that question to the next session, on condition that in the meantime the Secretariat continued its efforts to establish an integrated programming and budgeting system and particularly the machinery for that purpose, especially at the intergovernmental level; he also agreed that the Advisory Committee should devote whatever time was required to considering that question at its spring session in 1972.

53. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that he would like the Advisory Committee, whose interim report on the mock-up of the budget was expected on 13 December, to present the report a little earlier so as to permit the Fifth Committee to take a decision of principle and the Secretariat to continue its work.

54. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's work schedule did not permit it to give priority to that report; furthermore, if that question was to be deferred to the next session, the Advisory Committee might perhaps not have to submit the report at all.

55. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) associated himself with the comments made by the representative of Pakistan.

56. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he was aware of the complexity of the problem and of the need to take a well-considered decision. The Fifth Committee could not consider that item carefully in two days just before the end of the General Assembly session. It had to give the Secretariat precise instructions about how to proceed with regard to the new form of presentation of the budget and, since there were two possible alternatives, it would be better to defer discussion of that item to the next session, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had indicated.

57. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) associated himself with the statement made by the United States representative.

58. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that a decision ought to be taken at the current session. The Fifth Committee already had before it three reports on the subject: the mock-up of the budget, the alternative form of presentation of the budget advocated by CPC, and a report of that Committee. If the Advisory Committee could submit its report on 13 December, the Committee would be able to take a decision.

59. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) thanked the Chairman for circulating the list of items still to be considered by the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.34), and emphasized once again that the Committee's schedule of work should be discussed separately.

60. It was a pity that the Fifth Committee should have to defer consideration of the planning estimate and the mock-up of the budget for another year because of practical difficulties; but he expressed the hope that the Committee would be prepared to give those items detailed examination immediately after the opening of the twenty-seventh session.

61. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at the beginning of the session the Fifth Committee had considered the schedule and the organization of its work at four meetings; but it was impossible to keep strictly to the schedule of work that had been approved, since delegations should be able to make full statements of their views on each agenda item without any time-limit; and it was always desirable in any event for decisions to be reached through a consensus, particularly on budgetary matters.



62. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his delegation would have been ready to consider the question of programme budgeting. Nevertheless, it shared the view of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that it would not be very useful to spend only a couple of meetings at the current session on consideration of a question which ought to be thoroughly discussed by the Fifth Committee. His delegation trusted that at its next session the Advisory Committee would devote at least as much attention to the alternative form of presentation submitted in CPC as to the mock-up itself, which was not very satisfactory. He asked whether the Secretariat intended to prepare a mock-up of the 1973 budget like the one it had prepared for 1972. The Secretary-General should also report on the juridical and institutional consequences of introducing budget programming; indeed he should have reported on it at the current session.

63. The Fifth Committee should present specific recommendations regarding action to be taken by the Secretariat in the intervening period if it took a formal decision to defer consideration of the question to the twenty-seventh session. There should be five elements in such a decision. First, expression of regret that the matter could not be discussed at the current session. Secondly, the Advisory Committee should consider in detail both the mock-up and the alternative. Thirdly, a "mini-mock-up" covering a small segment of the 1973 estimates should be prepared. Fourthly, a report on the institutional, legal and structural implications of introducing programme budgeting should be prepared. Fifthly, the report should be presented through CPC and the Economic and Social Council.

64. The Indian delegation was in favour of postponing consideration of the planning budget to the twenty-seventh session.

65. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) did not think it would be advisable to defer the discussion of budget programming to

the twenty-seventh session in view of the importance of the item and the fact that all the necessary documents had already been issued. Despite the assurances given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, he wondered whether that Committee would really discuss the question in depth when it met in the spring of 1972.

66. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that he was sorry that the question of the programme budget could not be taken up at the current session. He wondered whether the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat would have all the necessary information for a detailed study of that question before the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

67. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee would be in a position to give detailed consideration to the programme budget before the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly and that it would be doing so with a view to making a complete and detailed report to the Fifth Committee at the opening of the session.

68. As to a mock-up of the budget for 1973, mentioned by the representative of India, he feared that its preparation would absorb too much time and resources but he thought it might be possible to submit part of the budget—a kind of "mini-mock-up"—in that form.

69. Although the report of CPC on the programme budget had been available for some time, the Economic and Social Council had only just concluded its consideration of the question and its report was only in the draft stage. In those circumstances, the Advisory Committee could hardly give the report the attention it deserved.

*The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 81

**Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued)\* (A/8447/Rev.1, A/8490, A/8538, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35)**

1. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, according to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8447/Rev.1), the administrative and management procedures concerning the programme and budget of the International Atomic Energy Agency seemed, on the whole, highly satisfactory. In particular, a judicious balance had been established between the responsibilities of the Board of Governors and those of the General Conference.

2. The Advisory Committee had noted (*ibid.*, para. 24) that, with the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the safeguards responsibilities of the Agency—i.e., its role in ensuring that equipment and material used in peaceful applications of nuclear energy were not diverted to military purposes—had significantly increased. His delegation hoped, with the Advisory Committee, that the need to devote additional resources to that task would not detract from the Agency's capacity to carry out the other tasks devolving upon it under its statute, in particular those which involved the application of nuclear techniques to promote economic progress in the developing world. Similarly, it was to be hoped that the activities of the Agency would not be curtailed for lack of voluntary contributions, from which the operational budget was principally financed.

3. In paragraph 63 of its report, the Advisory Committee had noted with interest that IAEA applied, in the case of its seminars and symposia, a system of standard charges that was designed to make it easier for as many countries as possible to host such meetings. Under that system, developed countries were charged an amount that was higher than the amount charged to the developing countries. His delegation had proposed (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35) the insertion in the Fifth Committee's report of a paragraph recommending that the Secretary-General should inquire into the full operation of the methods of financing by the Agency of certain meetings and conferences held away from its headquarters. That was not intended as a criticism, as some seemed to think, nor was it an attempt to have that

method applied to all United Nations meetings. It was simply a matter of seeing whether it might be used for certain types of meetings.

4. He drew attention to an error in the proposed paragraph: the word "General" should be inserted after the word "Director". Furthermore, for the sake of greater precision, the beginning of the paragraph should be amended to read: "The Fifth Committee, noting paragraph 58 of document A/8490 and paragraph 60 of document A/8447/Rev.1".

5. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that he agreed with many other delegations that the existing system of co-ordination was far from satisfactory and that many examples of lack of co-ordination, duplication and overlapping of activities might be cited. The question therefore required a new and constructive approach. It would not be useful, for example, to ask for a new report or to create new organs for the co-ordination of co-ordinators. The primary task was for Member States in the General Assembly to elaborate new and constructive proposals, since under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations it was the function of the General Assembly, assisted by the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and his Office, to deal with co-ordination matters.

6. Experience had shown that the legal framework of co-ordination—namely, the Charter, the constitutional instruments of the specialized agencies and the relationship agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies—was adequate and required no major changes. In particular, his delegation was strongly opposed to the revision of the relevant provisions of the Charter, both for reasons of practical utility and for political reasons. There were, however, some exceptions. The agreements concluded between the United Nations and the international financial organizations differed from those concluded with the other agencies and did not correspond fully to the relevant provisions of the Charter. However, it was not necessary to change the agreements in question; it would be sufficient to interpret them in such a way as to guarantee the powers of the United Nations to influence the policies and activities of those organizations to the extent necessary for effective co-ordination. Accordingly, the only constructive approach would be to improve the practical implementation of co-ordination and to adjust the existing machinery to meet changing circumstances and needs. In order to do so, the structure and functioning of the present machinery must first be reformed, because the current division of co-ordination powers and responsibilities between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had proved unsatisfactory. The lack of a central organ for co-ordination and of a clear division of

\* Resumed from the 1469th meeting.

competence created a risk of overlapping and duplication. It would therefore be more rational to have a pyramidal machinery, with a central organ at the top. That role would logically fall to the Economic and Social Council, which was sufficiently representative and was more operative and competent than the General Assembly in matters of co-ordination. His delegation doubted whether doubling the membership of the Council would enable it to fulfil its responsibilities in that respect more effectively. It would, in fact, produce the opposite result. The General Assembly should therefore transfer some of its co-ordination responsibilities to the Council, while reserving the right to decide on very general matters, such as the goals for development decades, the strategy for development, priorities, and so on.

7. There was also a need for reappraisal of the structure and functions of the subsidiary organs dealing with co-ordination, especially the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. He recalled in that connexion the proposal by the Yugoslav delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.39/Rev.1) submitted during consideration of agenda items 83 and 26, that the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat should arrange their time-tables in such a way as to facilitate each other's work. It was impossible to over-emphasize the importance for co-ordination of such subsidiary organs of the Assembly as the Advisory Committee and the Joint Inspection Unit and, at the level of the Economic and Social Council, of the role played by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. All those organs carried out their work independently and in advance of the sessions of the Assembly and the Council. It seemed that reappraisal of the subsidiary bodies was required in order to transform the co-ordination machinery into a more dynamic instrument. Whatever changes were made should enable the intergovernmental bodies to make full use of their existing powers. The United Nations should have more frequent recourse, where necessary, to such means of co-ordination as formal recommendations and requests for help and assistance, so as to be able to exercise more effective control and supervision over the activities of all the organizations within the United Nations system.

8. Two Main Committees of the General Assembly dealt with questions of co-ordination: the Second Committee, which concentrated on general policy and programme matters, and the Fifth Committee, which dealt with the finances of the United Nations system. In the view of his delegation, such a division of tasks was artificial and often led to policies and programmes being drawn up without regard to their financial implications. As the Joint Inspection Unit had recommended in its report (see A/8319 and Corr.1), therefore, the Second and Fifth Committees should hold joint meetings when discussing co-ordination matters and should take up that question fairly early in the session in order to be able to devote sufficient time to it. Lastly, it would be useful to have the benefit of the active participation of representatives of the specialized agencies during such joint meetings.

9. He thought that the consideration of co-ordination questions should not be limited to what might be called negative co-ordination, in other words the division of competence and tasks; it was important to seek to improve positive co-ordination, in other words co-operation among

various organizations in the execution of certain complementary programmes. For instance, the realization of the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade required the co-ordination at all levels of very complex programmes executed by many specialized agencies and many United Nations organs.

10. In conclusion, he said that the improvement of co-ordination machinery depended mainly on the position of Member States and of the Secretariat. For its part, his delegation was ready to enter into consultations with other interested delegations in order to formulate more specific and more suitable proposals.

11. Mr. DE SILVA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the English, French and Russian texts of the second sentence of paragraph 36 of document A/8490 did not correspond absolutely and that the paragraph gave a misleading idea of the productivity of UNESCO's translation section as compared with the translation sections of other agencies. The table given in paragraph 32 compared figures which were not really comparable. First, it did not contain the figures relating to the United Nations, which were indicated separately and which were far lower than those for the specialized agencies. Secondly, the figures given for some agencies did not include revision. Lastly, the statistics relating to UNESCO were not comparable with those for other agencies since, because of the quota system, unrevised translations were counted as only 66 per cent of the total words and UNESCO's translation output had declined after the translation of records had been discontinued. In fact, the comparison between the translation sections, excluding revision, was favourable to UNESCO in French, Russian and Spanish. It would also be useful to take account in those statistics of the fluctuation in the volume of work year by year, according to the number of meetings. In the case of UNESCO, for example, the General Conference met only every two years.

12. With reference to paragraph 46 of document A/8490, he said that UNESCO needed a great amount of revision for three reasons: the great diversity of subjects dealt with, the large ratio of work to be split between several translators, and the high percentage of probationary staff members and freelance and contract translators.

13. He hoped that his remarks would result in an improvement in the comparability between the various organizations in order to permit a more objective judgement.

14. He welcomed the distinction made by the representative of Poland between negative co-ordination and positive co-ordination. The specialized agencies held consultations at the pre-programming stage and endeavoured to use the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and the existing co-ordination machinery in order to reach prior agreements. They were ready to continue their efforts in that direction in order to ensure the optimum co-ordination of programmes and budgets and to utilize the limited resources at their disposal to the best advantage.

15. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) supported the paragraph proposed by the Tanzanian delegation (A/C.5/

XXVI/CRP.35) for insertion in the Committee's report and proposed that, in order to avoid any possible *arrière-pensée*, the words "inquire into", which were somewhat reminiscent of a police investigation, should be replaced by the word "study" or "review".

16. His delegation supported the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of its report (A/8490).

17. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that he hoped that the Advisory Committee would not neglect its co-ordinating role in favour of its budgetary and financial role and asked what agency would be dealt with in the Advisory Committee's next report on the procedures of organizations.

18. He noted with interest that at IAEA the number of Professional and senior posts in the Department of Administration in 1970 had been only 10 per cent above the 1960 figure. He also noted that the Agency had no verbatim records and restricted the provision of summary records to a small number of bodies. That had resulted in economies, since the number of Professional staff in the Languages Division had shown little change, as had the volume of texts to be translated. In paragraph 70 of the report (A/8447/Rev.1), it was stated that, thanks to the generosity of the Government of the host country, the Agency's accommodation needs had been met at minimal cost; the Austrian Government appreciated that remark.

19. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, in the report it had submitted at the previous session on the International Labour Organisation,<sup>1</sup> the Advisory Committee had announced that, after it had concluded the cycle of reviews of the administrative and management procedures of the specialized agencies, it would formulate general conclusions and recommendations on co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. His delegation believed that the report on IAEA currently under consideration was the last of the cycle and it awaited with interest the Advisory Committee's general conclusions and recommendations.

20. With regard to paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee on general co-ordination matters (A/8490), his delegation would point out that CPC and ACC had agreed on a process of prior consultations so that the activities of all interested parties were taken into account from the outset, thus removing the need for *ex post facto* co-ordination. He would also like to know whether the remark made by the Advisory Committee in the last sentence of that paragraph was a general one or whether it related to specific cases.

21. His delegation was in general agreement with the observations of the Advisory Committee on electronic data processing, in particular on the need for organizations, when purchasing equipment, to avoid unnecessary expenditure and to take care not to adopt incompatible systems and methods. It was quite obvious that the expenditure should be commensurate with the benefits which could be

derived from the new techniques. His delegation noted that, in December 1970, the ILO had installed a larger computer when the General Assembly had already decided to establish an International Computing Centre at Geneva. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that the various organizations had not yet developed a common approach to computers and pointed out that, in the interests of economy and efficiency, the installations of the International Computing Centre should be fully utilized, in particular by all the agencies which had their headquarters at Geneva. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 28 of its report, warned against the temptation to use computers unnecessarily for tasks which could be done more cheaply by other methods, and in that connexion it recommended that, before adopting new computer applications, the executive heads should consider thoroughly the cost-benefit relationship. The Advisory Committee also rightly pointed out that the ILO would save \$100,000 by introducing a computerized text storage system. His delegation thought that it was important always to seek out possible economies of that kind.

22. With regard to the productivity of translation sections, the Advisory Committee pointed out, in paragraph 33 of the same report, that the output of freelance translators was lower than that of staff translators, at least at UNESCO. His delegation thought that texts translated by retired translators working on a freelance basis could certainly not need revision and it considered that as much use as possible should be made of such translators; that would enable economies to be made without detriment to the interests of staff translators or of the Organization. His delegation would like to have more information on that subject.

23. It hoped that the Secretariat would deal with the problems raised by referencing, accommodation and typing referred to in paragraph 42 of the report.

24. He supported the proposal of the Tanzanian delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35).

25. Turning to the report of the Advisory Committee on IAEA (A/8447/Rev.1), he said that his delegation agreed with the solution set out in paragraph 20 therein, whereby IAEA would appoint representatives to the regional economic commissions instead of establishing its own regional offices.

26. He noted from paragraph 21 of the same report that the budgetary procedures of the Agency were not strictly in line with the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies but that they nevertheless enabled the objectives sought by the *Ad Hoc* Committee to be attained. He also noted, from paragraph 27 of that report, that the situation with regard to the appraisal and evaluation of programmes was not satisfactory. His delegation welcomed the fact, as stated in paragraph 32 of the report, that the General Conference of IAEA had decided to grant relief to member States having low *per capita* incomes, the minimum contribution of 0.04 per cent being too high for some countries.

27. With regard to paragraph 42 of the report his delegation disagreed with the Advisory Committee in that it

<sup>1</sup> Document A/8140, pertaining to item 79 of the agenda of the twenty-fifth session, issued separately (offset).

did not think that the proposed alternation in the distribution of costs between FAO and IAEA for the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture would have an adverse effect on co-ordination, provided that it was effected in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

28. His delegation was satisfied with the measures taken to reduce the Agency's documentation.

29. It noted the observation in paragraph 58 that so far, the benefits derived by the Agency from the work of the Joint Inspection Unit had not been commensurate with its contribution towards the costs of the Unit.

30. He expressed gratification concerning the co-operation between the Agency and UNIDO in the use of computers. The Advisory Committee had recommended, in paragraph 75 of the report, that the Director-General of IAEA study the possibility of using the facilities of the International Computing Centre at Geneva; it would be a good thing if the agencies with headquarters in Geneva were to provide an example in that respect.

31. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that he wished to make a few comments on the proposal submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35). He recalled General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), which stated that United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective established headquarters, with certain specified exceptions. That principle should also be applied to seminars and symposia and he was certain that the Tanzanian proposal was not intended to depart from that general principle.

32. His delegation noted that the methods of financing referred to in the Tanzanian proposal made a distinction between developed and developing countries. Since no other system of financing made such a distinction, the proposal, if adopted, might have consequences in other areas.

33. Furthermore, the system under which the Governments of host countries were obligated to assume a specific portion of the charges, which were higher for the developed than for the developing countries, could operate only if there were a sufficient number of developed countries prepared to host meetings and conferences. In the event that there were not, the difference between the actual costs and the relatively low charges to the developing countries should be met from the regular budget. In paragraph 63 of its report (A/8447/Rev.1), the Advisory Committee indicated that the system of standard charges could work successfully only for a restricted number of standard-size meetings; that might create practical difficulties in introducing it into the United Nations.

34. In conclusion, his delegation found no serious reason to oppose the inquiry proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. However, it hoped that the Secretary-General would give careful consideration to those problems.

35. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to a

question raised by the Austrian delegation, said that the Advisory Committee had not yet adopted its work programme for 1972. There were only a few more agencies to be studied and the Committee might then be able to formulate general conclusions and recommendations based on its studies.

36. In reply to a question from the Pakistan delegation, he said that the comment made in paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8490) was of a general nature.

37. In reply to the representative of UNESCO, he said that although the figures given in that report on the productivity of translation sections were not absolutely comparable, they at least indicated the general situation. He had been encouraged to note that the report had had the desired effect, namely, it had encouraged the various agencies to compare productivity and co-operate with each other.

38. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he accepted the oral amendment made to his proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35) by the Argentine delegation.

#### AGENDA ITEM 101

Amendment to rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (*concluded*) (A/8495 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.1077, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.44)

39. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that there was an error in the statement of financial implications (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.44) of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1077: if the new member was based in his national capital, travel costs would include two round-trips to New York with a stopover in Geneva instead of one round-trip to Geneva and one round-trip to New York as stated in the document. He said that the Advisory Committee had approved those financial implications.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/L.1077.

*It was so decided.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE THIRD COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8430/ADD.1 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 59 (*continued*) (A/8408/ADD.18, A/C.5/1409 AND CORR.1)**

41. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that his delegation found it disquieting for the Third Committee to be dealing with matters which were not within its competence, as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had stated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of its report (A/8408/Add.18). Just as the Fifth Committee was always careful to deal only with the financial implications of proposals submitted by other bodies and to avoid going into their substantive aspects, so the other Committees should be scrupulously careful not to encroach on the competence of the Fifth Committee. Consequently, his delegation supported the proposal made at the previous

meeting by the representative of Brazil and amended by the Chairman.

42. His delegation had voted for the Third Committee's draft resolution (A/8430/Add.1, para. 9) on the creation of a post of disaster relief co-ordinator. It had found merit in the suggestions made in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, but felt that the co-ordinator would be called upon to exercise very important functions and should therefore hold the rank of Under-Secretary-General. As the representative of Norway had pointed out at the preceding meeting, the co-ordinator would have to consult representatives of Governments at a very high level as well as the executive heads of agencies concerned, he would sometimes have to take decisions on the spot and he should be capable of organizing and planning the activities of his office in liaison with various agencies and non-governmental organizations so as to be able to respond immediately to the needs of countries stricken by natural disasters.

43. The Advisory Committee's suggestion that an Under-Secretary-General currently in office could be appointed co-ordinator had merit but it would relegate the functions of the co-ordinator to second place whereas he should be working full time in that capacity. Under the terms of the Third Committee's draft resolution, he would be appointed for a period of five years so that the Fifth Committee would have an opportunity to review the whole question when that period expired.

44. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation had voted for the Third Committee's draft resolution. It had felt at the time that the co-ordinator should have the rank of Assistant Secretary-General and not Under-Secretary-General and that his headquarters should be New York. It supported paragraphs 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Advisory Committee's report and, in particular, the Advisory Committee's suggestion that the Secretary-General should appoint one of the existing Under-Secretaries-General as co-ordinator. It also felt that the staff to be assigned to the office of the co-ordinator should, so far as possible, be drawn from the staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations and from the secretariats of the specialized agencies.

45. His delegation supported the proposal made at the previous meeting by the Brazilian representative.

46. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) endorsed the comments made by the Philippine delegation. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 6 of its report aimed at ensuring better co-ordination between the Main Committees of the General Assembly.

47. His delegation too believed that the post of co-ordinator should be filled by an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff.

48. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that his delegation had supported in the Third Committee the draft resolution concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster, in spite of the reservations prompted by its belief that the post of co-ordinator might have been made a lower-level post. However, since the decision had already been taken in the Third Committee, his delegation would support the Advi-

sory Committee's recommendation that the post should be filled by an existing Under-Secretary-General. It also supported the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. Lastly, he favoured the proposal made by the Brazilian delegation.

49. Mr. MAKUFU (Zaire) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution in the Third Committee, but was not convinced that the co-ordinator should have the rank of Under-Secretary-General. It supported the comments of the Tanzanian representative on the subject.

50. In addition, his delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 6, 9, 10 and 11 of its report.

51. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that his delegation, like many others, found substance in the comments of the Advisory Committee. No member of the Fifth Committee could fail to share the Advisory Committee's concern, expressed in paragraph 6 of its report, regarding the need for the observance of orderly budgetary procedures. On the question of the appropriate level for the post of disaster relief co-ordinator, his delegation wanted to make it clear that it had fully supported the proposal, as a sponsor of the draft resolution in question, on the understanding that a new post at the level of Under-Secretary-General was required. For reasons pertaining to the necessary prestige and effective functioning of the co-ordinator's office, it was prepared to support the proposal made in the first part of paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report. It saw no objection, however, to having the Fifth Committee's report take account of the substantive comments of the Advisory Committee, which had been reflected in the Fifth Committee's discussion. In that way the General Assembly would be in a position to take a decision in full knowledge of the facts.

52. Mr. LENG SARIN (Khmer Republic) said that his delegation had always taken the greatest interest in questions relating to natural disasters, as evidenced by its statement at the 1429th meeting in support of requests from countries stricken by such disasters that the Committee on Contributions should review their recommended assessments for the period 1971-1973.

53. His delegation favoured the establishment of a post of disaster relief co-ordinator and would have no objection to any rank assigned to that post, although it hoped that the level would be high. He did not believe, however, that it was for the Fifth Committee to take a decision concerning the co-ordinator's rank, since that would be an encroachment on the competence of the General Assembly. Since emergency assistance in connexion with natural disasters was by its very nature unforeseeable, his delegation considered it essential that provision for the financing of such assistance should be permitted under the annual Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

54. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) recalled that his delegation was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution of the Third Committee. It endorsed the conclusions stated in paragraphs 6 and 10 of the Advisory Committee's report, and in particular the recommendation that the personnel to be

seconded to the office of the co-ordinator should be provided from within the Secretariat of the United Nations and those of the specialized agencies. With regard to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report, since the Advisory Committee left it to the Fifth Committee to decide which of the proposed arrangements should be adopted, his delegation believed that, in view of the great importance of the co-ordinator's work, he should have all the authority necessary for effective action and that the appropriate level for the post was therefore that of Under-Secretary-General.

55. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) said that he had studied the Advisory Committee's report with great care. His delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee, subject, however, to the views to be expressed by the Fifth Committee on its financial implications. His delegation favoured the alternative recommended in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report because, if it was accepted, no additional appropriation would be required, as was stated in the last sentence of paragraph 9.

56. Mr. FAYACHE (Tunisia) said that he had been keenly interested in but somewhat puzzled by the debate on the financial implications of the draft resolution which, in his view, had lasted too long. While his delegation appreciated the arguments advanced by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of its report, it did not understand why the Fifth Committee should spend so much time on that question when there was too little time available for questions directly within its competence. He believed that, in view of the social aspect of the problem of assistance in cases of natural disaster, it was normal for the Third Committee to deal with the question. The delegations in the Third and Fifth Committees represented the same countries, and the consequences of the Third Committee's decision, which some members of the Fifth Committee seemed to take as a violation of their prerogatives, should not be exaggerated. However, his delegation supported the Ghanaian proposal that the secretariats of the two Committees should work together whenever the questions being dealt with had financial implications.

57. With regard to the level of the proposed post of co-ordinator, his delegation, a sponsor of the draft resolution in question, endorsed the Third Committee's decision that the level should be that of Under-Secretary-General. As several delegations had pointed out, that was the only suitable rank for an official called upon to play such a role; he would have to work full-time at his duties as co-ordinator. The size of the supporting staff, as the representative of Austria had pointed out, had nothing to do with the rank of the proposed co-ordinator, who should be based in Geneva. He hoped that the Fifth Committee would approve the financial implications of the draft resolution as quickly as possible, without change if possible, and would then take up the other items on its agenda.

58. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that he fully supported the proposal for the appointment of a disaster relief co-ordinator. With regard to the suggestion that the necessary personnel should be provided from within the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariats of the specialized agencies, the views of the United Nations Secretariat itself should be ascertained before a decision was taken. His

delegation hoped that the representative of the Secretary-General would give some indication of the day-to-day activities to be carried on by the officer in question. In addition, the Secretary-General's statement of the financial implications (A/C.5/1409 and Corr.1) included \$10,000 for consultants. He would like to have some detailed information of the nature of the work to be done by such consultants.

59. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that Peru was a country which had recently suffered a dreadful earthquake that had caused 60,000 deaths and incalculable material damage. It was also a country which had had occasion to acknowledge and appreciate the speedy and effective aid rendered to it by the United Nations, especially through the efforts of the Secretary-General. Assistance in cases of natural disaster was not a continuous task, but a necessity which arose only when such disasters actually occurred. The draft resolution of the Third Committee, of which Peru was a sponsor, covered everything that should be taken into account whenever United Nations assistance became necessary. Nevertheless, the representative of Kenya was right to ask the Secretariat for a number of clarifications.

60. It would have been useful if the Chairman of the Fifth Committee had consulted with the Chairman of the Third Committee in order to see whether it was possible to reach an agreement, especially as his delegation had understood the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to say that the draft resolution belonged to the Third Committee and that there could therefore be no question of amending it.

61. His delegation supported the proposal of the representative of Brazil concerning the drafting of the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly. The report should also mention the interest which many delegations had shown in the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report.

62. The CHAIRMAN explained that he had not said that the draft resolution in question belonged to the Third Committee, but had simply advised members of the Fifth Committee not to make any amendments to it. With regard to the suggestion that he should have consultations with the Chairman of the Third Committee with a view to reaching an agreement, he pointed out that the full implications of the draft resolution could not be known until the Advisory Committee's report on it had been considered. In any event, the Fifth Committee would take its own decision, and it would be for the Rapporteur to reflect in the report the views that had been expressed by delegations.

63. Mr. JERIC (Yugoslavia) observed that the Advisory Committee's report was admirably clear and concise. In the interests of clarity, however, paragraph 9 of the report should be divided into two separate parts, the first of which would end at the words "indicated in paragraph 4 above".

64. The CHAIRMAN said that the real issue before the Committee was whether to opt for the recommendation in paragraph 8 or for the one in paragraph 9.

65. Mr. GUPTA (India) felt that the Committee should not waste any more time on the question, especially since whatever decision was taken might be reversed by the General Assembly.



66. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that he believed that some clarification was necessary. The Chairman had said that the Committee must opt for one or the other of the recommendations in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report. In the view of his delegation, there were at least three questions to be resolved, namely, the rank to be assigned to the coordinator, how he would be appointed, and the responsibility to be assumed by the proposed Director (D-2).

67. The CHAIRMAN said that the Director would be responsible for managing the routine business of the office. The Committee would have to take a decision on the whole question at the next meeting, when he hoped that the alternatives proposed would be stated more clearly and the representative of the Secretary-General would reply to the various questions that had been put.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.34 AND 43)

68. The CHAIRMAN asked whether any delegations would wish to comment at the next meeting on the question of programme budgeting or whether the Committee agreed to defer consideration of it until the next session.

69. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the organization of work had already been thoroughly discussed and no agreement had been reached on whether or not to postpone consideration of that question.

70. He recalled his statement (1475th meeting, para. 63), regarding a decision on programme budgeting, in which he had suggested that there should be five elements in the part of the Committee's report dealing with the question.

71. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation could not support the suggestion that a "mini-mock-up" of the budget should be prepared. The principles of programme budgeting did not change overnight. The Secretariat had already spent a great deal of time in preparing the mock-up, and the Committee seemed to favour deferring consideration of the question until the next session. That being so, there could be no justification, when another resolution on limiting the volume of documentation had just been adopted, for asking the Secretariat to prepare more new documents.

72. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said he would like to explain that the reason why he had mentioned a "mini-mock-up" was that when the Advisory Committee had considered programme budgeting, it had already had before it two alternative forms of presentation of the

budget and it had appeared that a request might be made for the preparation of a third version, in which case the Controller would have to do all the work over again. That being so, if agreement was reached on the adoption of one of the two alternatives, it might not be necessary to prepare any "mini-mock-up".

73. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that he appreciated the concern of the Indian delegation and the considerations expressed by the Tanzanian delegation and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. There was one possible approach which would not force the Secretariat to do the impossible by preparing another "maxi-mock-up". The Secretariat could not be asked to prepare a complete new draft in the space of a few months. However, the Secretariat would be able to provide the Fifth Committee with an outline of the future structure of the estimates, to which improvements could be made later. So far as requesting the Secretariat to comment on any institutional changes which might prove necessary was concerned, a separate report on that question could probably be prepared by the following spring; it was important that the Advisory Committee should be in a position to make a thorough study of the question and to submit a report on which the Fifth Committee could hold a serious discussion early in the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

74. The CHAIRMAN said that, despite some reservations, the general feeling in the Committee seemed to be that consideration of the question should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session. There remained the question how the Rapporteur was to deal with the subject in the Committee's report. In that connexion, he would ask the Indian delegation to supply the Rapporteur with a written text of its suggestions.

75. Mr. GUPTA (India) welcomed the statement made by the Controller, and said he would like to emphasize that the only purpose of his suggestion that the Secretariat should be asked to submit a "mini-mock-up" of the 1973 budget was to enable comparisons to be made between the two forms of presentation of the budget, as was essential if the Committee was to be in a position to take a fully informed decision on the question later. His delegation had never intended to add still further to the volume of documentation or to the Secretariat's workload.

76. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that, while he appreciated the concern expressed by the Controller, he hoped that at the twenty-seventh session the Fifth Committee would have before it a proper document which it could consider, preferably early in the session.

*The meeting rose at 11 p.m.*



*Chairman:* Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
THIRD COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8430/ADD.1  
CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 59 (continued)  
(A/8400/ADD.18, A/C.5/1409 AND CORR.1)**

1. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) said that his delegation would vote for the appointment of a disaster relief co-ordinator. It fully endorsed the statement made by the Secretary-General on 16 September 1971 to the United Nations Correspondents Association to the effect that in the world of today it might perhaps be useful to add an Article 99 A to the Charter which would authorize the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of Member States global threats to human well-being other than those to peace and security.

2. His delegation accepted the Secretary-General's recommendation that the relief co-ordinator should be appointed at a level comparable to that of an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. It fully endorsed the remarks of the Turkish representative at the 1475th meeting on the special and very extensive duties and of the co-ordinator, which would be very different from those of the Red Cross, for instance. It also agreed with the remarks made in that connexion by the representative of Norway at the same meeting.

3. Turning to operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution of the Third Committee (A/8430/Add.1, para. 9), he said that his delegation would prefer the permanent office to be in Geneva not only for reasons of economy but also because it agreed with the point made in paragraph 10 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.18) that the personnel to be seconded to the office of the co-ordinator in cases of individual emergencies should to the extent possible be provided from within the Secretariat of the United Nations and those of the specialized agencies. In that connexion, his delegation shared the concern expressed by several others at the high level of estimated expenditure for renting office premises and engaging outside consultants.

4. With respect to the question of establishing the new post immediately, his delegation, acting on instructions from its Government, would not oppose the Fifth Committee's decisions if, unlike the Third Committee, it considered it unnecessary to set up the new post in 1972.

5. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that his Government attached the greatest importance to setting up a permanent

office adequately staffed to be the focal point for disaster relief matters. His delegation believed that the rank suitable for the co-ordinator was that of an Under-Secretary-General and that the new post should be established and filled from 1 January 1972. He therefore did not support the suggestions in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, but was in favour of the draft resolution of the Third Committee and paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report.

6. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) asked for clarification concerning the third sentence of paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee. If he had understood the Advisory Committee's intention correctly, it was suggested that the Secretary-General might designate an Under-Secretary-General already on his staff to act as co-ordinator. He asked whether the Fifth Committee was going to take a vote on that point or whether it would merely ask the Rapporteur to mention in the report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly that the discussion had shown that the Fifth Committee, after due consideration, had agreed that the Secretary-General should appoint an Under-Secretary-General already on his staff to act as disaster relief co-ordinator. As the Advisory Committee had pointed out, paragraph 2 of the draft resolution of the Third Committee did not preclude that course of action.

7. With regard to the last sentence of paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report, he asked what formula was to be used and whether operative paragraph 10 of the draft would become superfluous or not. His delegation thought it extremely important that the Committee should have the answer to those questions before taking a decision, and in that connexion he endorsed the relevant proposal of the Brazilian representative at the 1475th meeting.

8. Mr. N'DIAYE (Senegal) said that his delegation, which was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution of the Third Committee, felt that the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee were in line with the Third Committee's recommendations. He therefore supported paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report. The remarks in paragraphs 10 and 11 were sensible and worthy of the Fifth Committee's attention.

9. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon), referring to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution in question, said that his delegation thought it contrary to all principles to ask for the establishment of an adequate permanent office to deal with matters that were not foreseeable, infrequent and not certain to occur. He therefore fully endorsed the remarks of the Advisory Committee. In view of the Organization's financial position his delegation was disturbed by the estimated requirement for the establishment of the office in question. It would therefore vote against the proposal as formulated.

10. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) thought that it was in the interest of the developing countries that assistance should be efficiently and sensibly organized, but wondered whether the machinery proposed in the draft resolution was the most suitable for the purpose. He shared the concern expressed by the Advisory Committee in its report and did not support the establishment of a new post, whatever the rank.

11. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) thought that the relief co-ordinator should have the rank of Under-Secretary-General and should be appointed for five years beginning on 1 January 1972. He therefore approved the remarks of the Advisory Committee.

12. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) said that his Government attached great importance to the question of assistance in cases of natural disaster. Any measures to improve the efficiency of such assistance were welcomed, and he supported the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/1400 and Corr.1). Since, however, his delegation was against half-measures, it could not accept paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report.

13. Mr. EREN (Turkey) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution of the Third Committee, which had been sponsored by 60 countries and had been adopted by 85 votes in favour. The Fifth Committee could not oppose a decision taken by such a large majority. It was a decision based on past experience. The Third Committee had concluded that a permanent office headed by a high-ranking co-ordinator was necessary. An average of five natural disasters occurred every year; during the preceding few years over 10 million people had died in such disasters. It was therefore impossible to speak of infrequent phenomena. When a disaster struck, the help given was not always used effectively because co-ordination was lacking. It was necessary, therefore, to have a co-ordinator who could devote full time to the complex duties described in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution.

14. Mr. HILL (Consultant to the Secretary-General), in reply to the Kenyan representative's question whether the functions of co-ordinator could be exercised by an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff, said that the Secretary-General, in an effort to explore all possibilities of using existing resources, had decided to draw upon the specialized agencies and to restrict the staff of the permanent office acting as the focal point of disaster relief services to a few people under the direction of a high-ranking staff member.

15. The proposed establishment of a permanent office had had the support of a great many Governments and organizations, and the Economic and Social Council had requested the Secretary-General, in liaison with the specialized agencies and the League of Red Cross Societies, to take the necessary measures for the rapid organization of concerted action for relief and reconstruction. In its draft resolution the Third Committee had further broadened the co-ordinator's functions. The Secretary-General therefore considered that the post of co-ordinator should be a full-time post for a staff member with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. If the co-ordinator was to be effective, therefore, his functions could not be assigned to an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff.

16. Replying to the second question concerning the role of consultants, he said that they would be engaged for short periods and would be concerned with specific questions. The employment of consultants would make it possible to keep the permanent staff very small. However, they would have to be engaged during the first year, when co-ordination plans would be drawn up and technical questions would arise, whose solution would require the services of experts.

17. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. EREN (Turkey), Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia), Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. PICK (Canada), Mr. NAUDY (France), Mr. JOHNSON (Togo), Mr. VANDER GOOT (Netherlands), Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), Mr. FAYACHE (Tunisia), Mr. TARDOS (Hungary), Mr. ABARA (Nigeria), Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America), Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden), Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia), Mr. MARRON (Spain), Mr. RAKOTSIHANAKA (Madagascar), Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia), Mr. CLELAND (Ghana), and Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) took part, the CHAIRMAN said that the recommendations in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.18) were only tentative, and invited the Committee to take a decision on the following proposals: first, in view of the decision taken by the Third Committee on the need for a disaster relief co-ordinator, the Fifth Committee approved the inclusion of a new post in the manning table for that purpose; secondly, the co-ordinator should have the rank of Under-Secretary-General; thirdly, the functions of co-ordinator should be assumed by an Under-Secretary-General already in office.

*At the request of the representative of Turkey, a roll-call vote was taken on the Chairman's first proposal.*

*Malta, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen, Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Khmer Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia.

*Against:* Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Zambia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Ceylon, Colombia, Congo, Czechoslovakia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Mali.

*Abstaining:* Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait.

*The first proposal was adopted by 44 votes to 24, with 16 abstentions.*

*At the request of the representative of Afghanistan, a roll-call vote was taken on the Chairman's second proposal.*

*The Syrian Arab Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen, Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden.

*Against:* Togo, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, France, Ghana, Hungary, Mali, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Senegal.

*Abstaining:* Uganda, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Philippines, Rwanda.

*The second proposal was adopted by 43 votes to 17, with 24 abstentions.*

18. Mr. MARRON (Spain) and Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) asked whether the Committee was going to take a decision on the Chairman's third proposal.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that since the Committee had decided, by the first vote, to create a new post of disaster relief co-ordinator, the third proposal would not have to be put to the vote.

20. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that he was afraid that some delegations had not really understood the subject of the decision which they had been asked to make. For example, the delegations of Spain and Nigeria had apparently not realized that the adoption of the Chairman's first proposal eliminated the third proposal automatically.

21. Mr. NDURURUTSE (Burundi) explained that his delegation had abstained during the voting because although it recognized the need for a disaster relief co-ordinator, it felt that, whatever the rank of the person concerned, he should be chosen from among existing staff.

22. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation would have voted in favour of the proposal to designate as co-ordinator an Under-Secretary-General already in office.

23. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) had expected, like the representative of Spain, that the Committee would also vote on the suggestion in the last part of paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report.

24. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. GOUAMBA (Congo), said that it was obvious that many delegations did not under-

stand exactly what they were voting on. He supported the remarks of the representative of Spain and asked that the Chairman's third proposal, namely, that the Secretary-General should designate an Under-Secretary-General already in office to act as disaster relief co-ordinator, should be put to the vote.

25. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he also supported the request of the Soviet delegation and associated himself with the observations made by the representatives of Spain and Argentina.

26. Mr. EREN (Turkey) said that he regretted that the Fifth Committee was apparently making efforts to reverse the decision of the Third Committee: that attempt was being made by the delegations which had voted against the first proposal put to the vote by the Chairman.

27. Mr. MARRON (Spain) and Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that they had both voted for the first proposal.

28. The CHAIRMAN thought that the proposal to designate as co-ordinator for an initial period an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff was not incompatible with the first decision already taken by the Committee.

29. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that in voting on the Chairman's third proposal, the Committee would be going back on a decision which it had already taken. In that connexion, he cited rule 124 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which required a two-thirds majority of the members of the Committee in order that a decision already adopted might be reconsidered.

30. Mr. EREN (Turkey) said that in deciding to establish the post of co-ordinator, the Committee had decided to recruit a new official; it could not therefore assign the duties of co-ordinator to an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff.

31. Mr. GUPTA (India) recalled that he had abstained during the first vote and considered that the Committee had already taken a decision which it was not attempting to reverse. He therefore proposed that the Legal Counsel should be consulted on the procedures to be followed.

32. Mr. N'DIAYE (Senegal) thought that the principle of designating a co-ordinator had already been established in the Third Committee and that the first proposal voted upon involved the insertion of a new item in the budget. He had voted against that proposal, since he considered that the duties of co-ordinator could be assigned to one of the Under-Secretaries-General already on the staff.

33. Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) thought that the order in which the proposals had been put to the vote was not very logical.

34. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that in voting for the establishment of a new post, his delegation had understood that the post would be established on 1 January 1972. If it voted in favour of the proposal contained in the second part of paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, the Fifth Committee would be going back on its first decision.

35. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) said that he shared the point of view of the Italian representative.

36. Mr. BARTUSEK (Czechoslovakia) thought, on the contrary, that the Committee had not approved the establishment of a new post from 1 January 1972, as it had not specified any date. It could therefore quite easily vote on the Chairman's third proposal without contradicting its first decision.

37. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that he had voted against the first proposal and had abstained from voting on the second as he was opposed to the establishment of a new post of Under-Secretary-General. He would have voted for the second proposal to appoint the co-ordinator at the level of Under-Secretary-General if the duties of co-ordinator had been assigned to an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff. He considered that in voting on the first proposal the Committee had already taken a decision on the third proposal.

38. Mr. TWAGILIMANA (Rwanda) said that he had abstained during the vote as the proposals put to the Committee seemed confused. He suggested that the Committee should vote again on proposals which were clearer.

39. Mr. MAKUFU (Zaire) said that he wished to know whether the establishment of the post of co-ordinator would necessarily involve recruiting a new official.

40. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that he had voted against the first proposal since he was opposed to the establishment of a new post; the duties of co-ordinator should be assigned to one of the Under-Secretaries-General already on the staff.

41. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that he had voted as he had done on the first two proposals only because he thought that the Chairman would put the third to a vote.

42. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) strongly opposed a vote being taken on the third proposal and joined the representative of Austria in citing rule 124 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

43. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) supported the remarks of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and pointed out that, at the time of the vote on the first proposal, the Chairman had called the attention of the Committee to the financial implications of the establishment of a new post. The third proposal was not a new one: it was only the second part of the same alternative.

44. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) thought that rule 124 of the rules of procedure did not apply in the present case because there was no contradiction between the decision already taken by the Committee and that which it might take by approving the third proposal. In his opinion, it was rule 132 of the rules of procedure which was applicable.

45. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that he shared the view of the Spanish and many other delegations that the Chairman's third proposal should be put to the vote in the same way as the first two proposals. He did not feel that

rule 124 of the rules of procedure was applicable in the present case, and pointed out that, when formulating the three proposals, the Chairman had not said that approval of the first two would dispense the Committee from voting on the third.

46. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to indicate, in accordance with rule 124 of the rules of procedure, if it wished to vote on the question of whether the Secretary-General should appoint, for an initial period, an Under-Secretary-General already on the staff to the post of disaster relief co-ordinator.

*At the request of the representatives of Turkey and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the vote was taken by roll-call on the proposal put to the vote by the Chairman in accordance with rule 124 of the rules of procedure.*

*Malawi, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Congo, Cuba, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan.

*Against:* Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Guyana, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic.

*Abstaining:* Malaysia, Morocco, Trinidad and Tobago, Zaire, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Khmer Republic.

*The result of the vote was 35 in favour and 27 against, with 15 abstentions.*

*The proposal was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.*

47. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should inform the General Assembly directly that, if it adopted the draft resolution of the Third Committee (A/8430/Add.1, para. 9), concerning the establishment of a post of Under-Secretary-General and the staff of the associated permanent office, it would be necessary to provide an additional \$62,500 in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

48. He also suggested that the Fifth Committee should request the General Assembly to endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 6 of its report (A/8408/Add.18) and to draw the attention of its Main Committees to that recommendation; support the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 10 of its report that the personnel to be seconded to the office of the

co-ordinator in case of individual emergencies should to the extent possible be provided from within the Secretariat of the United Nations and those of the specialized agencies or provided by Governments and organizations on a non-reimbursable basis; and recommend that provisions for the financing of assistance in connexion with natural disasters be inserted in the annual General Assembly resolution on

unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, as had been the past practice, thereby obviating the need for paragraph 10 of the draft resolution of the Third Committee.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.*



**Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).**

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Woschnagg (Austria),  
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
THIRD COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8430/ADD.1  
CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 59 (concluded)  
(A/8408/ADD.18, A/C.5/1409 AND CORR.1)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited those members of the Committee who wished to do so to explain their votes at the previous meeting on the Chairman's proposals concerning the post of disaster relief co-ordinator.

2. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that the voting procedure had not been clear. In his view, the adoption of a favourable decision on the first and second proposals of the Chairman had not implied any decision on the third; consequently a vote should have been taken on that proposal as on the other two. His delegation therefore considered that no decision had been taken on the third proposal and that it was still an open question whether, as he considered logical, one of the existing Under-Secretaries-General should be appointed as co-ordinator, or whether, as some delegations had suggested, a new and additional Under-Secretary-General should be appointed; the second alternative would obviously have financial consequences. He wished his opinion to be reflected in the records of the Fifth Committee and in its report to the General Assembly.

3. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he had abstained from voting on whether a new post should be established. He believed that it was immaterial whether the job was done by a new appointee or by one of the existing Under-Secretaries-General. He had voted in favour of the proposal that the new co-ordinator should hold the rank of Under-Secretary-General because that point had been decided by the Third Committee. He had abstained from voting on the third proposal of the Chairman to be consistent with his abstention on the first.

4. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he fully concurred with the views expressed by the Polish representative. He also wished to add, for the record, that during the consideration in the Fifth Committee of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on assistance in cases of natural disaster, many serious errors had been committed, involving violations of the rules of procedure. As a result many delegations had not had the opportunity of voting as

they had wished to vote, as had been pointed out in the statements made by a number of representatives.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the views of the Soviet representative would be included in the records of the Fifth Committee.

6. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation had voted against putting the third proposal of the Chairman to the vote because he believed that once the Committee had approved the creation of the new post, the third proposal should have been eliminated. His delegation had voted against the establishment of a new post for a co-ordinator; however, a majority of members had voted for it, thus approving a new item in the budget estimates to cover the cost of a new post, with new functions. The third proposal was identical with that of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.18, para. 8), which Colombia had supported. However, since, by the vote on the first proposal, the Committee had approved the new post, he had cast a negative vote regarding the third proposal.

**AGENDA ITEMS 81 AND 12**

**Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued)\* (A/8447/Rev.1, A/8490, A/8538, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35)**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters XXI and XXII) (A/8403, A/C.5/1394)**

7. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked if the Tanzanian representative would accept an amendment to his proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35). He proposed that the words "application of those methods to similar" should be replaced by the words "reduction in expenditure on the holding of"; the end of the text would then read: "... and report as appropriate to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session on the possible reduction in expenditure on the holding of conferences and meetings held by United Nations bodies away from Headquarters".

8. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he had selected the wording of the last part of his text after much thought. The Secretary-General was being asked to enquire into the methods of financing certain IAEA meetings and the possible reduction of expenditure was only one of the aspects to be studied. The wording proposed by the Soviet Union would prejudice the Secre-

\* Resumed from the 1476th meeting.



tary-General's findings; consequently he could not accept the amendment and hoped that the Soviet representative would not press it.

9. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was not prepared to withdraw his amendment.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee could not vote on the Tanzanian proposal or the Soviet amendment, as there was no quorum.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION II SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8578 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 12\* (A/8408/ADD.19, A/C.5/1399 AND CORR.1)**

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)\*\***  
(for the documentation, see the 1472nd meeting)

*First reading (continued)\*\**  
(A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)

**PART VI. TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES: SECTION 13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY SERVICES AND NARCOTIC DRUGS CONTROL; SECTION 14. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408 AND CORR.1 AND 2)**

11. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1399 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Second Committee (A/8578, para. 44), concerning regional advisory services, and to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.19). He said that the Fifth Committee was required under rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to advise the Assembly of the financial implications of adopting the Second Committee's draft resolution.

12. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the substantive question for the Fifth Committee was dealt with in paragraphs 3 and 10 of the Advisory Committee's report, in which it reiterated the view that appropriations under the part of the regular budget relating to technical programmes depended on policy decisions taken by the General Assembly in the light of over-all budgetary considerations, and that consequently the Advisory Committee had no comments to offer on the size of the proposed new section or on the allocations to individual regional economic commissions. The rest of the report dealt with the problem of the division of responsibilities between the Fifth Committee and the other Main Committees of the General Assembly.

13. At the previous meeting, during consideration of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution of the Third Committee (A/8430/Add.1, para. 9), the Indian representative had raised the question of a possible contradiction between paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report. Paragraph 7 reverted to the views expressed by the Advisory Committee at the twenty-second session,<sup>1</sup> but it embodied the same principle: if any of the Main Committees dealt with matters falling within the competence of the Fifth Committee, the latter should have the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on the budgetary aspects. At the twenty-second session, the recommendation of the Second Committee had been to provide a new section for technical assistance for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the General Assembly had received a different recommendation on the subject from the Fifth Committee. If possible, such differences should be resolved before recommendations went to the General Assembly. Consequently, when a question within the Fifth Committee's field of competence was raised in another Main Committee, it should also be taken up in the Fifth Committee, which should report back on it to the Committee in which it had originated. While that procedure would not ensure that the differences were resolved, at least it would provide an opportunity for resolving them.

14. Mr. NAUDY (France) referred to paragraphs 3 and 10 of the Advisory Committee's report. It was surprising to find the Advisory Committee so sparing in its comments on a proposal to appropriate some \$2 million under the regular budget of the United Nations. The main reason for the anomaly was well known: it was the total lack of co-ordination between the organs which voted to adopt programmes and those which exercised budgetary control. Like other members of the Fifth Committee, he hoped that the situation might be improved by the adoption of programme budgeting. The representative of India had made some useful comments in that connexion at the 1475th meeting. For the time being, the situation could not be changed. Nevertheless, without challenging the principle underlying the Second Committee's draft resolution, the Fifth Committee had the right to ask on what basis the proposed figure of \$1,825,000 had been calculated. What budget document had been used as the source? Was the figure a final one, and how was it broken down? What was the total figure for advisory services in 1970 and 1971? How had those services been used, and what agencies had approved distribution of the funds and controlled their use? Could the aims of the draft resolution be achieved at a lower cost? The Fifth Committee had the right to ask such questions.

15. Similar questions could be asked concerning the use of the appropriations for restoring section 13 to its existing level. What programmes were envisaged for 1972? The Fifth Committee was entitled to be given that information when it involved expenditure of \$1,825,000 and the information must exist. There was no reason why, without questioning the principle of technical assistance programmes, the Fifth Committee should not try to ensure that the programmes were well conceived, and executed

\* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

\*\* Resumed from the 1474th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes*, agenda item 39, document A/6931, para. 8.

and administered in the best interests both of the beneficiaries and of the United Nations, in accordance with the rules of sound administrative and budgetary management.

16. His delegation agreed with paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the report, concerning the competence of each of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and the encroachment by some Committees on the powers of the Fifth Committee. He agreed with the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and would like to hear the comments of the Secretary-General's representative particularly regarding the application of paragraph 2 of operative section I of the Second Committee's draft resolution, in the light of regulation 10 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations.

17. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question under discussion was part VI: Technical programmes, including the proposal of the Second Committee. He wished, therefore, to take the liberty of referring to the whole question of technical programmes, not merely to the matter raised by the proposal of the Second Committee. In the first place, his delegation considered it necessary to state once again that the system under which technical assistance activities were financed from the regular budget was illegal. Under Article 17 of the Charter, the United Nations regular budget was to be used for administrative purposes only; it was not intended to finance technical assistance activities, which should be provided on a voluntary basis. Decisions to finance technical assistance activities from the regular budget could not be regarded as binding on Member States.

18. The Soviet Union had upheld the developing countries' endeavours to develop their economies. Under existing agreements, it provided economic and technical development assistance to more than 40 developing countries, in which it was building more than 690 industrial plants. In helping the developing countries to develop their national industries, it respected the wishes of those countries. At the request of the developing countries, the Soviet Union had granted them long-term credits totalling 5,000 million roubles.

19. One of the most acute problems facing the young independent States of Asia, Africa and Latin America was the lack of trained technical personnel. The Soviet Union was therefore providing those countries with assistance in training national staff by enrolling their nationals for study in institutions of higher learning and in technical colleges in the Soviet Union. Its assistance also consisted in setting up industrial concerns and national training institutes in the developing countries. More than 120 institutions of higher learning, technical and secondary schools and training centres had been established in the developing countries with USSR assistance. In addition, more than 100,000 students from developing countries and socialist countries were being educated in USSR institutions, where training was provided free of charge. The students also received scholarships at the expense of the USSR. Despite the many costly projects it had to carry out in its own country, the USSR was prepared to continue providing technical assistance to the developing countries by sending experts, supplying equipment and material and training nationals from the developing countries in USSR institutions.

20. It was clear, therefore, that in the opinion of his delegation any assistance, including that provided through United Nations technical assistance programmes, must be granted solely on a voluntary basis. His delegation was utterly convinced that United Nations technical assistance should be financed by UNDP, not the regular budget. It was surprised, therefore, that the Second Committee—and, furthermore, by attempting to circumvent the Fifth Committee—should have adopted a draft resolution introducing changes in part VI of the budget. Like the French delegation, his delegation could not understand how the Second Committee could have adopted such a draft resolution. It, too, would like to know what criteria and calculations had governed the decision. In the circumstances, his delegation endorsed the views expressed in the report of the Advisory Committee concerning what might be termed a violation of the procedures of the General Assembly and of the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee.

21. In conclusion, he had been authorized to state that, in view of its position of principle that technical assistance activities should be financed on a voluntary basis and not through the regular budget, his Government would, if the Fifth Committee approved the Second Committee's draft, be obliged as in the past to deduct an amount, as appropriate, from the roubles it provided for technical assistance purposes in part VI and the proposed new section of the budget.

22. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that there had been an extensive discussion on the draft resolution in the Second Committee prior to its adoption. At that time, questions like those raised by the French delegation had been answered in detail by certain delegations and by the Secretariat. His delegation had no objection to that procedure being repeated in the Fifth Committee but, given the nature of the Advisory Committee's report, the debate should be short and a conclusion should be reached as soon as possible. If the French delegation insisted on answers to its questions, his delegation suggested that a representative of the Office of Technical Co-operation should be invited to answer them.

23. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the provisions of paragraph 1 of operative section I and those of section II of the resolution in question were clearly within the competence of the Fifth Committee. His delegation endorsed the comments of the Advisory Committee and suggested that perhaps rule 41 of the rules of procedure, which related to the General Committee's role in co-ordinating the proceedings of all Committees, should be brought to the attention of the Second Committee.

24. Commenting on the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union, he said that although his delegation had great admiration for the technical assistance provided by the USSR on a bilateral basis, it nevertheless considered that there was also room for multilateral technical assistance. In forming that opinion, his delegation had been guided by the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 3, and of Article 13 of the Charter. It would appear from those Articles that if technical assistance was removed from the regular budget, the United Nations would be divested of one of its essential functions.

25. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that although the Advisory Committee had produced some very good reports, it had been miserly with its advice concerning the financial implications of the Second Committee's draft resolution, which the Secretary-General had indicated in his note (A/C.5/1399 and Corr.1). He hoped that the Advisory Committee's reticence did not herald a new trend. The only recommendation the Advisory Committee had made was in paragraph 8, of its report (A/8408/Add.19), which referred to the respective competence of the Fifth and other Committees, and the Brazilian delegation endorsed that paragraph. At the previous meeting, and on other occasions, lack of advice from the Advisory Committee had led the Fifth Committee into confusion. The Advisory Committee might have stated that if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 would be required under section 13. Or it could have said that the Second Committee had encroached upon the competence of the Fifth Committee, and that the General Assembly should not adopt the draft resolution. Or it could have said that it considered the estimates of the financial implications incorrect. As things stood, it was difficult for the Fifth Committee to take a position, since it had not been advised as to the consequences of any decision it might take on the Advisory Committee's report. Apparently, all the Fifth Committee could do was to approve the conclusions in paragraph 8 of the report. Nevertheless, the Fifth Committee wanted to know whether the Advisory Committee accepted the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in his note.

26. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that he wished to make three points. Firstly, his delegation was concerned about the developments relating to questions of budgetary presentation and financial control. The Second Committee had decided that a separate section should be added to the budget; that was not an orderly procedure and his delegation had said so in the Second Committee.

27. Secondly, it would seem necessary to exercise caution in expanding those technical assistance activities which were covered by the regular budget. His delegation was in favour of regional and subregional activities, but it would be more appropriate if any expansion of those activities was handled through UNDP. Canada's support of multilateral assistance was evidenced by the fact that in 1970 and 1971 it had occupied fourth place among UNDP donor countries, having contributed \$15 million and \$16 million, respectively, in those years; in 1972 it would contribute \$18 million but would slip to fifth place, one of the major donor countries having increased its contribution. It should be noted, moreover, that Canada's contributions were paid in convertible currencies and with no strings attached.

28. His third point was that it seemed singularly inappropriate at a time when the Organization was on the brink of financial disaster to add to the budget new expenditure in an amount of almost \$2 million under a new section. His delegation had voted against the draft resolution in the Second Committee. It was uncertain how the matter would be dealt with in the Fifth Committee but, consistent with the position it had adopted in the Second Committee, his delegation would, in some suitable way, vote against inclusion of the appropriation in the new section.

*Mr. Sanu (Nigeria) took the Chair.*

29. Mr. OSMAN (Sudan) said that the statements made by the Canadian, French and Soviet delegations seemed to indicate that the substantive debate on the question was being reopened. That debate had been completed in the Second Committee, which had taken a decision. Many members of the Fifth Committee had attended the debate in the Second Committee and had expressed their views on the question. His delegation was grateful to the representative of Italy for having shown why technical assistance should be financed through the regular budget.

30. In its report the Advisory Committee questioned the competence of the Second Committee to decide to establish a new section in the budget. It would seem, however, that the Second Committee had made a technical mistake. Its primary concern had not been to establish a new section in the budget but merely to make provision in the budget for a special entity for regional and subregional advisory services. The suggestion was a reasonable one and, if adopted, would facilitate the administration of funds.

31. It was regrettable that the last paragraph of the Advisory Committee's report was so passive. His delegation had hoped that the Advisory Committee would emphasize that, in view of inflation, to maintain the regular programme at a fixed monetary level was tantamount to reducing the service provided under that programme. It was known for instance that whereas in 1966 the cost of an expert had amounted to approximately \$18,000, it was currently estimated at \$30,000. It would be interesting to know why the comments in the last paragraph of the Advisory Committee's report were so noncommittal.

32. In conclusion, he said that he hoped that the Fifth Committee would endorse the Second Committee's draft resolution.

33. Mr. LOGVIN (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that as his delegation had made clear in the general discussion on agenda item 76, technical assistance activities should not, in its opinion, be financed under the regular budget. Contributions for technical assistance should be provided on a voluntary basis; any attempt to make them mandatory would lead to a deterioration in the accumulation of funds. Technical assistance should be removed from the regular budget and merged with UNDP.

34. His delegation could not, therefore, accept the comments made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. It was unable to support part VI of the budget for 1972. If that part was approved and additional expenditure was voted under the regular budget, his delegation would pay its assessed contribution in Soviet roubles.

35. Referring to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, he said that the practice whereby other Main Committees adopted decisions on matters within the purview of the Fifth Committee was a matter of concern to his delegation.

36. Mrs. STRÖJE-WILKENS (Sweden) said that her delegation would continue to support the United Nations regular programme for technical co-operation, and its expansion, because it agreed with the Italian delegation that

the Organization had a specific role to play in co-operating with the developing countries. The regular programme should have a definite identity and not duplicate the work of other United Nations bodies, including UNDP. Her delegation hoped that the programme would continue to help the least developed of the developing countries, whose needs had been stressed in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It was regrettable that the combination of fixed ceilings and rising costs had resulted in a watering down of the regular programme. Some of the restraints resulting from that situation should be removed, thus enabling the United Nations to play its full role in helping the developing countries.

37. In the Second Committee, her delegation had intended to suggest that consultations should be arranged between the Second and Fifth Committees with a view to reconciling the substantive and budgetary aspects of the questions. In the early days of the Organization such consultations had been common practice, but they had been discontinued because of practical difficulties. From time to time such consultations were still held and her delegation had understood that one of the sponsors of the Second Committee's draft resolution had been appointed to consult with members of the Fifth Committee on the matter. So far as it was aware, the consultations had taken place.

38. Mr. GUPTA (India) pointed out that it was the Economic and Social Council, not the Second Committee, which had suggested the creation of a separate section of the budget. If delegations represented in the General Committee had considered that the draft resolution under discussion was pertinent to the Fifth Committee, they should have said so when sections of the Council's report were being allocated to the Main Committees for discussion.

39. Referring to the comments made by the representative of Sweden, he said that he had approached the Chairman and the Secretary of the Fifth Committee and asked that arrangements should be made for a joint meeting between the Second and Fifth Committees. He had been told that for practical reasons that was impossible and had informed the Second Committee accordingly.

40. He had been surprised by the observations of the representative of Brazil on the Advisory Committee's role in commenting on the draft resolution and the financial implications thereof. In his opinion, the attitude adopted by the Advisory Committee, as described in paragraph 10 of its report, was correct. To the extent that its role was considered passive, he agreed with the representative of Sudan that it should have emphasized that in money terms appropriations for technical programmes amounted to less than \$5.4 million.

41. The Secretary-General's estimates of the cost of the proposal had not been based on fantasy. The Second Committee's intention had been that the amounts currently being spent on regional and subregional advisory services should be earmarked for a unified system of such services. The Secretariat had totalled the amounts and arrived at the figure of \$1,825,000.

42. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation felt that insufficient attention had been given to the link between part VI of the budget and the current liquidity crisis.

43. The USSR in particular had, since 1963, been making its contribution to part VI of the budget in inconvertible roubles, i.e. in a form which had not been requested and was not utilizable by the United Nations. Therefore, there had consistently been a gap between what the General Assembly had authorized to be expended and the amount contributed by Member States. That gap, together with certain other well-known cases of the withholding of funds, had resulted in the liquidity crisis.

44. In his aide-mémoire submitted to all delegations earlier in the year, Mr. Hambro, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, had drawn attention—as one of the elements required for the solution of the cash deficit situation—to the need for a settlement acceptable to a majority of Members, both developed and developing, and particularly to the principal contributors to the United Nations regular and extraordinary programmes, of the problem posed by part V, now part VI, of the budget.

45. That problem deserved serious consideration before the next session. A solution might be to move part VI from the budget and redistribute its components elsewhere, both within the budget and outside it. For example, narcotic drugs control could be funded from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the technical assistance activities could be funded from UNDP and the various other sections of part VI might be distributed elsewhere in the United Nations budget.

46. Meanwhile, his delegation would oppose the additional appropriation of some \$1.8 million. If that amount was included in part VI, his delegation would vote against the entire part.

47. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that his delegation very strongly supported paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.19), regarding the competence of the Fifth Committee. He suggested that an encroachment on its competence might be avoided if the Second Committee, when considering resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, dealt with those parts that fell within its competence and left the remaining parts to the other organs concerned.

48. With regard to the reference, in paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report, to regulation 10.2 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, he had the impression that, in the view of the Advisory Committee, the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions could not incur additional obligations without authorization from the Secretary-General under that regulation, even though the draft resolution of the Second Committee would authorize the use of funds earmarked for regional and subregional advisory services.

49. He considered the statement by the representative of Brazil to be most reasonable. The Advisory Committee's approach had perhaps been rather tentative; it could have given clear recommendations for action by the Fifth

Committee in connexion with the draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee. According to the statement by the United States representative, there would appear to be no clear agreement among the major contributors on a long-term over-all solution to the financial problem.

50. While the Second Committee's infringement of the Fifth Committee's competence was regrettable, the debate could not now be reopened. Yet the Fifth Committee could not ignore its wider responsibilities concerning the financial crisis as a whole; something needed to be done before the close of the current session.

51. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that he supported the Indian representative's view that the Second Committee had not encroached on the Fifth Committee's competence. As to technical assistance, his delegation considered that voluntary contributions were not sufficient. If the provision in the regular budget for technical assistance were eliminated, as the USSR advocated, the programmes of the developing countries would be seriously affected. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution of the Second Committee, although it agreed with the representative of Brazil that there should be a clearer indication of the financial implications to avoid any misunderstanding that might arise in the General Assembly.

52. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland) said that the draft resolution in question was intended to carry through a sensible rationalization of administrative arrangements in line with current trends in the administration of the regional and subregional services. His delegation considered that the proposed additional appropriation was a long-overdue increase largely caused by rising costs in New York and elsewhere. Certain urgent projects desperately needed initiation or completion; it would be paradoxical to introduce cuts—which would be the effect of a failure to provide resources that were additional only in the sense that they compensated for inflation. The draft resolution was a modest proposal for an overdue financial equalization in an essential part of the aid programme, and had the support of his delegation. In that connexion, he wished to reiterate his delegation's view that the budgetary deficit was due not to excessive expenditure by the United Nations but to the refusal of certain countries to pay their contributions for what they regarded as reasons of principle. His delegation felt that the regular budget should not suffer as a result.

53. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation fully endorsed the view of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its report, namely, that the Second Committee's proposals regarding the format of the budget fell within the competence of the Fifth Committee. In that connexion, her delegation concurred with the French delegation that additional information would help members of the Fifth Committee to discharge their responsibilities. The Advisory Committee's views were welcome whenever available.

54. Her delegation sympathized with the view of the USSR and Ukrainian delegations that technical assistance programmes should not be included in the regular budget. It was able to accept their inclusion only in so far as they provided for experimental pilot projects, and considered that the expansion of technical assistance services on the

scale called for in the draft resolution should be met from voluntary programmes; the United Kingdom delegation in the Second Committee had indicated that additional services of the kind envisaged should be met from UNDP funds. In that connexion, her Government had recently announced a very substantial increase in its contributions to UNDP for 1972, with continuing support for 1973, and was therefore disturbed that regional services should be financed from the regular budget, entailing increased contributions from Member States. Those considerations might affect its future attitude regarding the level of its voluntary contributions to UNDP. Furthermore, in current circumstances, when the financial problems of the United Nations were unresolved, there was no justification for such an increase in the budget. Her delegation would therefore oppose the proposed increase as it had done in the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee.

55. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation wished to stress that technical assistance activities in the economic, social and human rights fields were a fundamental obligation of the United Nations under the Charter and under the terms of several General Assembly resolutions. Moreover, it always favoured the dual method of financing technical assistance; the two programmes were complementary, since in view of the steadily increasing number of requests for assistance, it was essential that, in addition to programmes financed by voluntary contributions, assistance should be provided out of the regular budget.

56. Furthermore, regardless of the total amount of voluntary contributions to technical assistance programmes, his delegation took the view that the existence of a regular programme indicated the readiness of the Organization to meet its economic and social responsibilities.

57. The sections of part VI formed the very basis of the regular technical assistance programme, and, if the total amount of the budget increased, it was natural to expect a proportionate increase in appropriations under part VI. In that connexion, his delegation noted that the percentage of funds requested under part VI was smaller for 1972, namely, 2.7 per cent of the total budget, than for 1971 when it had been 4 per cent.

58. Under Article 55 of the Charter, the United Nations had assumed some responsibility for technical assistance; and if part of the technical assistance programme was not financed from the regular budget, the Organization would be abdicating that responsibility. As a developing country, Algeria would oppose any attempt to exclude technical assistance from the regular budget or to finance it entirely from voluntary contributions to UNDP, and would therefore unreservedly support the appropriations requested under the sections of part VI.

59. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that, in view of the serious financial crisis, it was necessary more than ever for the Fifth Committee to exercise financial restraint. Not only was the proposed appropriation of \$1.8 million a considerable sum, but in addition the budgetary justifications were hardly clear for increasing, in effect, by that amount, the budget level for the technical assistance programme for other than advisory services. While the additional appro-

priation might very usefully be expended, the Committee required further specific information before approving that expenditure.

60. Members were well aware that part VI was unfortunately one of the sources for the accumulation of debts. The proposed appropriation would inflate that deficit. If a separate vote was taken on that additional appropriation, his delegation would vote in accordance with the considerations expressed.

61. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that, despite the moral obligation of Member States to assist other Members, his delegation felt that assistance must be an expression of their readiness to help rather than a kind of taxation. Nothing in the Charter provided that the budget should be used for any purpose other than to cover the administrative expenses of the United Nations; not even Article 55 could be interpreted as an order to provide technical assistance from the budget, and his delegation resolutely refused to accept any such interpretation.

62. The technical assistance activities of the United Nations should be based only on voluntary contributions; insistence on the current mandatory character of technical assistance did more harm than good to international technical co-operation.

63. The appropriation in part VI amounted to 3 per cent of UNDP assistance and to one tenth of 1 per cent of the assistance made available through bilateral and multilateral channels. But what was at stake was the principle rather than the amount involved. His delegation maintained its position that part VI must be removed from the regular budget and combined with UNDP. Apart from political considerations, the management and effectiveness of technical assistance would thereby be improved. The adoption of the draft resolution of the Second Committee would cause a further increase in the regular budget, more duplication in technical assistance programmes and more difficulties in programme management. Far from strengthening the leading role of UNDP, the draft resolution would have the opposite effect.

64. While his delegation favoured the decentralization of the administrative functions of the United Nations, it opposed the decentralization of the budgetary authority of the Secretary-General, which would give rise to waste and make it difficult to supervise programme implementation. His delegation would therefore vote against part VI of the budget and the financial implications of the draft resolution.

65. Mrs. STRÖJE-WILKENS (Sweden) said that her delegation considered that United Nations activities financed from the regular budget in no way duplicated those of UNDP—to which her country, too, was a large contributor. The United Nations had an obligation under the Charter to provide funds for the regular technical assistance programme. In any case, it could not count entirely on the generosity of Member States' contributions to UNDP. Countries dependent on development planning projects financed from the regular budget should not have to rely on voluntary contributions.

66. Commenting on the so-called expansion of the regular programme by \$1.8 million, she pointed out that the budget had remained the same for many years; that increase would merely help to compensate for inflation. The financial crisis would not be solved by providing less than its due share to the regular programme. She recalled that the Secretary-General had pointed out that regardless of the level of resources available, development activities must continue to be assisted according to their merits.

67. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said, in reply to the representative of Brazil, that if any trend was discernible, it was a trend towards the encroachment by other Committees on the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee. However, in order to allay the Brazilian representative's fear that there might be a trend towards passivity in the Advisory Committee's reports, he wished to assure the Committee that his concern on that account was unwarranted. The Advisory Committee's previous report on the same subject<sup>2</sup> had been equally passive, the reason being that there were certain policy matters—and the question before the Committee was one of them—on which the membership of the Fifth Committee, and not the Advisory Committee, must take decisions.

68. With regard to the view expressed by the representative of Sudan that the Advisory Committee could have been more forthcoming in its report, he acknowledged that the Advisory Committee had experienced difficulties when considering the draft resolution, which was a rather curious one. The whole of the preamble concerned the regional and subregional aspect of technical assistance; operative section I also concerned the regional economic commissions, yet it contained no financial implications, but merely concerned the transfer to a separate section of the regular budget of the existing regional advisory services currently under section 13 of the budget; and it was only operative section II that contained any financial implications, namely, the amount of \$1,825,000, which it was proposed to transfer back to section 13.

69. Clearly, the Fifth Committee could not be relieved of the necessity of taking a policy decision.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

70. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/BUR/178, in which the President of the General Assembly suggested that the General Committee should consider recommending the adoption of certain measures in order to make it possible for the General Assembly to complete its work before Christmas.

71. While it might be necessary to postpone the close of the session by two days—a view held by the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs—the target date for closure remained 21 December.

*The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 74, document A/7776.



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF DRAFT RESOLUTION II SUBMITTED BY THE  
SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8578 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 12 (concluded) (A/8408/  
ADD.19, A/C.5/1399 AND CORR.1)**

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1472nd meeting)

*First reading (concluded) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1)*

**PART VI. TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES: SECTION 13.  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL DEVELOP-  
MENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVISORY SERVICES AND NARCOTIC DRUGS CON-  
TROL; SECTION 14. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
(concluded) (A/8406 AND CORR.1 AND 3, A/8408  
AND CORR.1)**

1. Mr. SADDLER (Budget Division), replying to the questions put at the preceding meeting by the representative of France, said that, in the statement (A/C.5/1399 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Second Committee (A/8578, para. 44), the Secretary-General had informed the Fifth Committee that approval by the General Assembly of operative paragraphs 1 and 3 would require the transfer of an amount of \$1,825,000 to a new section of the budget and an additional appropriation in the same amount under the budget for 1972 if the existing section 13 was maintained at its current level of \$5,408,000.

2. The representative of France, and also the representatives of Colombia, the United Kingdom and Japan, had asked on what basis the figure of \$1,825,000 had been calculated, how that amount was to be approved, and what organ had arrived at the conclusion that the figure was correct. They had also requested details of the similar allocations for advisory services for the financial years 1970, 1971 and 1972. Paragraph 1 of operative section I of the draft resolution referred to the transfer to the new section of the budget of "the existing regional advisory services at present under section 13". Accordingly, the Secretary-General, on the basis of the regular programme for 1972—which had been formulated in accordance with the programming and budgetary procedures for the United Nations regular programme of technical assistance, approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session in resolution 2514 (XXIV)—had arrived at the figure

of \$1,825,000 by totalling the costs of providing regional advisers to the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office at Beirut. That figure corresponded to the actual cost of the services financed in 1971 from the over-all appropriation of \$5,408,000 approved by the Fifth Committee for section 13 as a whole on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The General Assembly had approved the appropriation of \$5,408,000 by its resolution 2738 (XXV).

3. The special skills of the regional advisers varied from commission to commission, but they related to the following fields: public administration; public finance; housing, building and planning; transport; statistics; population; social development; development planning; natural resources; export promotion. The regional advisers were assigned to the headquarters of the regional commissions and to Beirut and were dispatched to the various countries by the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the Beirut Office, in consultation with the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation, in response to government requests for advisory services.

4. In reply to the second question put by the representative of France and by the representative of Australia, he said that under financial regulation 10.2, supplemented by financial rule 110.1, if operative paragraph 2 was approved, the obligations in respect of regional advisory services could be authorized by the Controller, in the form of an allotment of funds to the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the Beirut Office. Funds for the United Nations development advisory teams would be allotted by the Controller to the appropriate officer on the basis of the programme of expenditure approved by the Controller. The Controller intended to allot funds for regional advisory services in 1972 in so far as such funds were available in freely convertible currencies. Funds in non-convertible currency would be used, so far as possible, for technical assistance purposes.

5. He noted that the Secretary-General issued, for the information of the Governing Council of UNDP, a detailed report on the utilization of appropriations for the regular programme. The most recent report, relating to the 1970 programme, appeared in document DP/RP/11.<sup>1</sup>

6. In reply to the French representative's question concerning details of the allocations for regional advisory services in 1970, 1971 and 1972, he said that the funds in question had been and would be apportioned among the regional economic commissions and the Beirut Office as

<sup>1</sup> Mimeographed document, dated 21 May 1971.



follows: ECAFE, \$451,700 in 1970 and \$325,000 in 1971 and 1972; ECLA, \$637,200 in 1970 and \$330,000 in 1971 and 1972; ECA, \$669,000 in 1970 and \$485,000 in 1971 and 1972; UNESOB, \$65,400 in 1970 and \$85,000 in 1971 and 1972; United Nations development advisory teams, \$30,000 in 1970 and \$600,000 in 1971 and 1972.

7. Mr. NAUDY (France) thanked the representative of the Secretary-General for his clear and precise replies. He pointed out, however, that he had also requested explanations concerning the utilization of the amount of \$1,825,000 which would appear in a new section of the budget. He would also like some information on the programmes which, in accordance with operative section II of the draft resolution, were to be concentrated substantially to support country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries as well as regional and subregional programmes of special interest to those countries. He would also like to know which authority would approve those programmes.

8. Mr. SADDLER (Budget Division) said that the regular programme of technical assistance for 1972 had been formulated in accordance with the guidelines given by the Secretary-General to the Governing Council of UNDP, account being taken of the new form of country programming adopted by UNDP. Certain changes in the regular programme were under consideration with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The regular programme for 1972 would include pilot projects and demonstration projects, which would be mainly interdisciplinary projects primarily for the least developed countries. The programmes formulated by the Secretary-General had been considered by the competent departments and would be executed in accordance with the procedure laid down by the General Assembly. The appropriations must be approved by the Fifth Committee on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

9. Mr. NAUDY (France) thanked the representative of the Secretary-General for the additional information he had given.

10. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) said that his delegation attached the greatest importance to the question of technical assistance to developing countries. He noted that operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution did not involve any additional expenditure, since the General Assembly, in deciding to establish a separate section in the United Nations regular budget to provide for a unified system of regional and subregional advisory services and to transfer to that section the existing regional advisory services currently under section 13 would merely be maintaining the funds for regional advisory services and decentralizing their control to the regional economic commissions. That arrangement would strengthen the regional economic commissions and UNESOB and facilitate project implementation by eliminating the time wasted in correspondence between the headquarters of the regional economic commissions and New York.

11. Section II of the draft resolution, whereby the General Assembly would approve an additional appropriation of

\$1,825,000 under section 13 to maintain that section at its current level, had evoked a certain amount of resistance. He regretted that the United Kingdom, United States and Soviet delegations had overtly or covertly opposed the draft resolution, allegedly for financial or technical reasons. In his view, it was futile to discuss whether technical assistance should be financed through UNDP or through the regular budget of the United Nations, because it should be financed by all possible means simultaneously. That was the essence of Article 1, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Charter. He wondered whether those countries which argued that the regional advisory services would be best provided through UNDP would be prepared to provide the funds, were the General Assembly to ask UNDP to take on the establishment and management of the unified system of regional advisory services proposed in the draft resolution. If UNDP declined, would those countries still have any objection to the proposals being implemented at the expense of the regular budget? It was equally invalid to plead the financial crisis within the United Nations, since that crisis would be settled immediately if the Governments which had not paid their contributions to the regular budget in full decided to do so. Moreover, the sum of \$1,825,000 required to replenish section 13 was extremely small and would be used to assist the least developed among the developing countries.

12. He objected to the practice of requiring an additional appropriation for every new proposal, and he believed that the Advisory Committee should see that funds were better distributed and should propose measures to enable new expenditure to be offset by savings elsewhere.

13. In conclusion, he fully supported the request by the Secretary-General for an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 under section 13.

14. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that he would like to know whether the cost for the United Nations development advisory teams would be included in the cost of country programmes to be financed by UNDP.

15. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) disagreed with some delegations which thought that the creation of a unified system of regional advisory services would weaken UNDP; he felt that it would, on the contrary, strengthen it. He agreed with the representative of Nigeria that the United Nations financial crisis should not be used as an argument in connexion with the establishment of a new section in the regular budget, and he fully supported the proposals in the draft resolution of the Second Committee, as well as their financial implications, as stated by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/8408/Add.19) on the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1399 and Corr.1).

16. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that paragraph 2 of the Second Committee's draft resolution indicated clearly that the amounts earmarked for regional and subregional advisory services would be provided directly to the regional economic commissions and UNESOB. The aim was to finance projects of general interest to regions or subregions, and the regions themselves would have to submit their requests for assistance to the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions. The Second Committee's draft indicated that developing countries were becoming

increasingly anxious that United Nations development activities should be decentralized and were trying to gain more freedom of action for the regional economic commissions. It must be admitted that up to the present the major initiatives in respect of development had come from the regional economic commissions, and not from United Nations Headquarters. The commissions should therefore be provided with funds which they would administer themselves to finance regional and subregional projects as requested by countries.

17. His delegation recognized the importance of bilateral and multilateral programmes financed from voluntary contributions but would point out that Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, relating to economic and social co-operation, did place a financial obligation in that respect on the States Members of the Organization. Inasmuch as development was a prerequisite for international peace and security, it was in the interest of the international community to have a United Nations regular programme of technical assistance. His delegation was therefore in favour of maintaining an amount of \$5,408,000 in section 13 of the budget, as provided for in section II of the Second Committee's draft resolution.

18. Mr. GONCHARENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested under part VI of the budget. It would not be in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter to include in the regular budget appropriations for technical assistance programmes, which should be financed by UNDP. If the Fifth Committee approved the financial implications of the Second Committee's draft resolution, the Byelorussian SSR would pay the corresponding part of its contribution to the budget in national currency.

*Mr. Woschnagg (Austria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

19. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) drew the attention of delegations which traditionally opposed appropriations under part VI of the budget to Article 55 of the Charter. Since the question had already been thoroughly discussed in the Second Committee, his delegation did not think that the Fifth Committee should spend too much time on it. Kenya was in favour of an increase of \$1,825,000 in the appropriation under part VI of the budget and of establishing a new section in the budget for regional and subregional advisory services. His delegation agreed that the Second Committee had encroached on the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee, and in that connexion it endorsed paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report.

20. Mr. RINGNALDA (Netherlands) said that his delegation fully shared the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of its report, but feared that the recommendation would not be implemented; it therefore hoped that at every session the President of the General Assembly would make a statement to that effect to the Assembly, before the Assembly and its Committees began their work.

21. His delegation had voted in the Second Committee for the draft resolution because it believed that the regional economic commissions should play a greater role in advising countries on the programmes they were considering. There

also seemed to be a need to decentralize activities, and in that connexion his delegation agreed with paragraph 2 of section I of the draft resolution. His delegation had not voted for section II in the Second Committee because that section did not cover all the financial and technical problems which adoption of the resolution would involve. His delegation would also like to know what criteria the Secretary-General had used in apportioning the additional appropriation requested among the regional economic commissions. Lastly, his delegation wondered whether, in view of the current financial situation of the Organization, all the additional appropriation requested for 1972 need be used. His delegation would vote for part VI of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, but it was not sure that it could vote for the appropriation requested under section 13.

22. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he would vote for an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 under section 13 of the budget for 1972, for the reasons indicated in the draft resolution of the Second Committee. He noted that in paragraph 10 of its report, the Advisory Committee had offered no comments on the size of the proposed new section or on the allocations to individual regional economic commissions. His delegation shared the views expressed in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report. Some delegations did not think that the cost of technical assistance programmes should be charged to the United Nations regular budget, but it should be borne in mind that the specialized agencies did likewise in the case of their regular programmes. It was true that UNDP was the main body concerned with technical assistance, but it was not the only one through which programmes were financed. If the regular programme of technical assistance was transferred from the United Nations to UNDP, the United Nations would no longer be fulfilling one of the basic objectives of the Charter. United Nations technical assistance activities in the fields of social and economic development had been most successful, as was stressed in the Joint Inspection Unit's study on the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.<sup>2</sup> It should also be borne in mind that one of the aims of the programme was to provide assistance to the least developed among the developing countries and that it was necessary to make a suitable appropriation for that purpose if the assistance was to take a concrete form. The total appropriation requested was extremely small in relation to the needs of those countries. His delegation therefore fully supported the additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 requested for that purpose.

23. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that, in his view, the Committee should discuss only the budgetary aspects of the question of regional and subregional advisory services, and not the substance of the relevant draft resolution. In the statement (A/C.5/1399 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in question, the Secretary-General made it clear that the transfer of the costs of the existing regional advisory services to a separate section of the budget, as called for under operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, would be a purely technical act and would not require additional resources. The idea of the transfer was to consolidate and decentralize the services in question; the representative of

<sup>2</sup> Documents A/8446 and Add.1, pertaining to agenda item 76, issued separately (offset).

Nigeria had elaborated on that. The creation of a new section in the budget and the authorization given to the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions to administer those funds should not be linked to the financial crisis of the Organization, as some representatives were trying to imply. He hoped that delegations which had objected or expressed reservations would try to respond more favourably to the intentions of the draft resolution.

24. The provisions of section II of the draft resolution required an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000, equal to the amount which would appear in a new section of the budget. That was a very modest endeavour in relation to the needs. The appropriation requested for part VI, section 13, was the same as the 1971 appropriation, and was less than the actual expenditure in 1970 on economic and social development, public administration, advisory services in the field of human rights and narcotic drugs control. His delegation certainly wished that the estimates for technical programmes were higher, but it was nevertheless satisfied with the decision to establish a separate section of the regular budget to finance a unified system of regional and subregional advisory services. It hoped that the Fifth Committee would take positive action on that point.

25. His delegation had no objection to the comments in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.19) but wondered whether that paragraph meant that the Fifth Committee should consider all questions having financial implications before they were considered by other Main Committees; it shared the view of some delegations that joint meetings of the Fifth and Second Committees should in future be convened in such cases.

26. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) noted that the amounts allotted to each regional economic commission had been established on the basis of past experience; he wondered whether the amount of the allotments would remain fixed and whether the role of the Controller would be simply to receive requests for funds and transmit the allotments to the regional commissions and to UNESOB without having any say on how those funds would be used. The Committee was being asked to endorse a procedure which, if applied more widely, was not likely to result in optimal resource allocation and utilization. He also wished to point out that the United States Government had been the largest contributor to multi-lateral assistance efforts since the establishment of the United Nations system, a point in which his delegation took some pride.

27. Mr. SADDLER (Budget Division), replying to the representative of Austria, who had asked whether the funds to be used to cover part of the cost for the United Nations development advisory teams would be included in the country programmes, said that those amounts would not be included in the country assistance programmes, which would be financed by UNDP, but would be part of the over-all United Nations contribution to the programmes planned and implemented by UNDP. With regard to the Netherlands representative's question as to how assistance to the least developed among the developing countries would be provided, the additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 would be used to provide expert services to countries which requested them, and in accordance with

the directives of the General Assembly the least developed among the developing countries would have priority. There was in existence an assistance programme for the least developed among the developing countries, which would use up the whole of the additional appropriation of \$1,825,000. In reply to the representative of the United States, he said that the programme was not a rigid one and the apportionment of funds among the various regional economic commissions would not be fixed; there could be changes in priorities at the request of Member States. The Controller's staff would continue to scrutinize as carefully as in the past the procedures to be applied to the programmes envisaged in each region, in order to ensure the most effective use of the resources placed at the disposal of the Secretary-General by the Governments of Member States.

28. Mr. NAUDY (France) reiterated his delegation's reservations with regard to the principle underlying the procedure that was followed, and said he was surprised that the Secretary-General's report had not contained the very useful explanations given by Mr. Saddler.

29. Funds appropriated under section 13 should be administered by more orthodox and less secret methods to allow their use to be controlled in a methodical manner. Current procedures did not convince him that proper control was being exercised. Furthermore, he agreed with the observations made by the representative of Nigeria regarding the practice of requiring an additional appropriation for every new activity. Consequently, his delegation would not be able to vote in favour of section 13 if an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 was requested. It agreed with paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report, which stressed the encroachment on the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee by other Committees.

30. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that he would vote in favour of the financial implications of the draft resolution in question.

31. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) said that he was not certain that paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report covered the idea of establishing a separate section in the regular budget and requesting an additional appropriation under section 13.

32. Mr. SADDLER (Budget Division) said that paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report related to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, and if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, it would have authorized the establishment of a separate section in the regular budget.

33. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the Second Committee, an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000 under a new section in part VI of the budget for 1972 would be required.

*At the request of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, a vote was taken by roll-call on the Chairman's proposal.*

*Liberia, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

*In favour:* Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon.

*Against:* Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Japan.

*Abstaining:* Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Belgium, Finland, Greece, Italy.

*The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 61 votes to 13, with 8 abstentions.*

34. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the Chairman's proposal, since it considered that the vote did not concern the substance of the question of technical programmes.

35. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should invite the Rapporteur to mention in his report paragraphs 6 to 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.19) and to draw particular attention to paragraph 8. If there was no objection, he would take it that his suggestion was adopted.

*It was so decided.*

36. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that his delegation shared the views of the Advisory Committee on the procedure followed by the Second Committee. In addition, he considered that activities involving technical programmes could be financed under the regular budget.

37. Mr. SARAMO (Finland) said that in the Second Committee his delegation had abstained in the vote on section II of the draft resolution, considering that in the current circumstances it was inopportune to recommend an increase in expenditure. For the same reason, it had also abstained in the vote on an additional appropriation of \$1,825,000.

38. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider in first reading the appropriation of \$6,908,000, which the Secretary-General had proposed under part VI of the budget estimates, as they stood, and which was broken down into \$5,408,000 under section 13 and \$1,500,000 under section 14. The total appropriation could be increased if necessary depending on the decision to be taken by the General Assembly on the Second Committee's draft resolution. Any changes necessitated by the decision of the

General Assembly would be taken into account in the appropriations which the Committee would be called upon to consider in second reading.

*An appropriation of \$6,908,000 under part VI of the budget estimates for 1972 was approved in first reading by 50 votes to 7, with 11 abstentions.*

39. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that he hoped that in second reading separate votes could be taken on sections 13 and 14.

40. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote as it considered that the technical assistance programme should not be financed under the regular budget.

#### AGENDA ITEMS 81 AND 12

**Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued) (A/8447/Rev.1, A/8490, A/8538, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35 and 48)**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters XXI and XXII) (continued) (A/8403, A/C.5/1394)**

41. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he could not accept the amendment (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.48) proposed by the Soviet delegation to the text (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35) that his own delegation had proposed for insertion in the report of the Fifth Committee. His delegation would, however, be prepared to add the words "all aspects of" before the words "the possible application of those methods" in that text.

42. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he regretted that he could not accept that proposal, which did not quite correspond to the amendment proposed by his delegation.

43. The CHAIRMAN requested the Rapporteur to consult with the Tanzanian and Soviet delegations with a view to including in the Fifth Committee's report a paragraph which both would find satisfactory.

44. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. FAKIH (Kenya), said that he thought that the two texts proposed should be put to a vote.

45. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that he would support the proposal of the Tanzanian delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35) as just revised by that delegation.

46. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote first on the amendment of the Soviet delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.48) to the text proposed by the Tanzanian delegation (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.35) for insertion in the report of the Fifth Committee, and then on the text proposed by the Tanzanian delegation.

*The amendment of the Soviet Union delegation was rejected by 21 votes to 13, with 35 abstentions.*

*The text proposed by the United Republic of Tanzania was adopted by 47 votes to 8, with 15 abstentions.*

47. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that, according to paragraph 731 of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/8403) the Council had adopted, by 25 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, a draft resolution recommended by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on budget performance documents. His delegation suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it approve Economic and Social Council resolution 1644 (LI) relating to the submission of work programme documents and budget performance documents and to include a paragraph to that effect in the report of the Fifth Committee.

48. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation saw no objection in principle to the proposal of the Indian delegation, but he would nevertheless like to see and study a written text of it before taking a decision.

49. Mr. MARRON (Spain) thanked the Advisory Committee for the very useful reports which it had submitted on the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and IAEA. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that IAEA prepared its budget on the basis of programmes and considered that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should follow that example. In addition, he supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 46 and 49 of its report on general co-ordination matters (A/8490), which referred to translation services.

50. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) said that he would like to know under what agenda item the Committee was going to consider the proposal submitted by the Indian delegation. According to the Committee's time-table, the form of presentation of the budget was not due to be discussed until 13 December. His delegation also wondered whether the Committee could take a decision on the matter without having first studied the report of the Economic and Social Council on its resumed fifty-first session.

51. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that agenda item 81, concerning the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, included consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council (agenda item 12). Moreover, his delegation intended to submit a proposal to defer consideration of the programme and budget question until the twenty-seventh session.

52. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee had already decided in principle to defer discussion of the question of the presentation of the Organization's budget until the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

53. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his delegation's proposal, which would be a little more complete, would be issued as a conference room paper.<sup>3</sup>

54. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly adopt the following draft resolution, which he read out at the request of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania:

*"The General Assembly*

*"1. Takes note of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on general co-ordination matters (A/8490) and on the administrative budgets for 1972 of the agencies for 1972 (A/8538) and on administrative and management procedures concerning the programme and budget of the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/8447/Rev.1);*

*"2. Requests the Secretary-General to refer the report on general co-ordination matters to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency through the consultative machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, as well as to the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for their information and comment, and to the members of the Board of Auditors, and the Joint Inspection Unit, for their information;*

*"3. Also requests the Secretary-General to refer to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in chapter III of its report on the administrative budgets of the agencies for 1972;*

*"4. Further requests the Secretary-General to transmit the report on the review of the administrative and management procedures concerning the programme and budget of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Director-General of that organization so that the report may be brought to the attention of the Board of Governors of the Agency."*

55. If there were no objections, he would consider the draft resolution adopted.

*It was so decided.*

56. Following an exchange of views in which Mr. BENNET (New Zealand), Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands), Mr. NAITO (Japan), Mr. GUPTA (India), Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) and Mr. GOUAMBA (Congo) took part, the CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the date of its next meeting.

*The Committee decided by 45 votes to 13, with 7 abstentions, to resume its work on Monday, 13 December, at 10.30 a.m.*

<sup>3</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.50.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 84**

Personnel questions (*continued*)\* (A/8454, A/8483, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45):

(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)\* (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45)

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (part I) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45)*

1. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, said that the first part (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45) of the draft report of the Committee was comparatively long because he had considered it necessary to set forth the views of the Committee on the question as fully as possible. In addition, several of the paragraphs in the document had been submitted by various delegations.

2. The following amendments should be made to the text. The end of the first sentence in paragraph 10 should read "in its resolution 2539 (XXIV) and 2736 (XXV)". In the second sentence in the same paragraph, the words "information on it" should be replaced by the words "such a plan". Also, in the third sentence of the same paragraph, the words "such information" should be replaced by the word "it". In the first sentence of paragraph 16 the words "the acceptance by the sponsors of the four amendments proposed by the United States of America" should be replaced by the words "that, having accepted the first three amendments proposed by the United States of America, the sponsors were now prepared to accept their fourth amendment"; the words "with regard to the fourth amendment" should be deleted from the sentence. Also in the same sentence the words "amendment had contained" should read "amendment contained". Finally, the last sentence of paragraph 22 should read "However, they were not opposed in principle to the proposal submitted by Ghana and Japan".

3. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) suggested that, since the report had been distributed only that morning and delegations had not had an opportunity to study it carefully, further consideration of the matter should be deferred until the following meeting.

*It was so decided.*

\* Resumed from the 1464th meeting.

[The Committee turned to the consideration of agenda item 82 (see paras. 27 to 51 below). It then resumed consideration of agenda item 84.]

(b) Other personnel questions (A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404)

*Amendments to the Staff Rules of the United Nations (A/C.5/1371)*

4. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the Secretary-General's note (see A/C.5/1371) on the changes made in the Staff Rules during the year ending 31 August 1971.

*It was so decided.*

*Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations (A/8565, A/C.5/1398/Add.1)*

5. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the proposal of the Secretary-General for an increase in the salary of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. He pointed out that the proposed figures of \$56,000 gross per annum corresponded to \$34,600 net, and not \$28,000 net, as incorrectly stated in the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/1398/Add.1). The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concurred (see A/8565) in the Secretary-General's proposal.

6. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel) said, in reply to a question from Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), that the principle applied in determining the salary of the UNDP Administrator was, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's report, that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2481 B (XXIII), annex 1, paragraph 1 of the Staff Regulations provided that the status of the Administrator was equivalent to that of the executive head of a major specialized agency. As the salaries of the executive heads had been increased, the proposal was to increase the Administrator's salary, in line with that of the executive heads, with effect from 1 January 1972, by amending annex 1, paragraph 1 of the Staff Regulations.

7. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should approve the amendment proposed by the Secretary-General, and that an appropriate draft resolution should be included in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly on the subject.

*It was so decided.*

*Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems in the United Nations (A/8454, A/8545, A/8552)*

8. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8454), the Secretary-General's preliminary comments (see A/8545) on that report, and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8552). The Secretary-General had stated in his report that a fuller submission on some of the proposals in the Inspection Unit's report would be made at the twenty-seventh session, and had requested an additional appropriation of \$50,000 in order to undertake studies relating to those substantive observations. The Advisory Committee had recommended that an additional amount of only \$25,000 be provided under section 3, chapter III (Other temporary assistance).
9. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) said that it was clearly not possible for the Committee to deal fully with the comprehensive report of the Joint Inspection Unit and its consideration should be deferred to the twenty-seventh session. However, he could not agree to the provision under section 3, chapter III of an appropriation of \$50,000 as requested by the Secretary-General. He did not accept that there could be follow-up action on a report that had not yet come before the General Assembly. He considered that section 3 was already over-financed in relation to essential needs.
10. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that it had not been agreed that the Bertrand report (see A/8454) should be examined in detail at the twenty-sixth session. It was a massive document, full of original ideas concerning changes in the system of recruitment, promotion and other questions; in any case, the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System would wish to consider some aspects of the report.
11. He believed that the Fifth Committee might consider one procedural aspect. Canada had drafted a passage<sup>1</sup> for the Fifth Committee's report recommending that the General Assembly ask the Secretary-General to refer the Bertrand report to the specialized agencies and IAEA, to initiate discussions in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and to transmit ACC's views to the Special Committee.
12. He agreed with the recommendation in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report that UNESCO should be consulted on the question of recruitment by competitive examinations.
13. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he believed it was right to postpone discussion of the Bertrand report on the grounds that it was voluminous and very technical, and that it dealt with many complex questions. If the General Assembly was to take well-founded decisions, Member States needed more time to study the report.
14. He was surprised that the Secretary-General had asked for additional funds to study the practicability of implementing the recommendation on recruitment by competitive examination, since the General Assembly had not yet

decided to implement that recommendation. To spend the funds for that purpose would be a waste in the event that the Assembly should reject the recommendation at the twenty-seventh session. The sum involved, \$25,000, was not large, but by approving it at the current stage the Committee might establish a precedent for spending much larger sums on other projects that the Assembly had not had the time to study. However, if the Secretary-General could not find the necessary expertise within the Secretariat to make a detailed study, he might have to tell the Assembly at the twenty-seventh session that his advice on the subject was limited by the amount of expertise available within the Secretariat, and that he had had no opportunity of studying the question in detail and formulating his recommendations. Consequently, the Tanzanian delegation was prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation that \$25,000 should be appropriated to enable the Secretary-General to make a detailed study of the Bertrand recommendation. He hoped that the Secretary-General would be able to furnish comments on the other Bertrand proposals as necessary in order to enable the Assembly to decide on them at the twenty-seventh session. He agreed that the Secretary-General should seek assistance from UNESCO concerning competitive examinations. He noted that the Bertrand report included recommendations that could have system-wide implications.

15. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that for many years his delegation had been particularly interested in personnel questions. Staff morale was of the greatest importance; it could be adversely affected by administrative or budgetary decisions, and it could, in turn, affect productivity. He regretted that there was no mention in the Secretary-General's preliminary comments (see A/8545) of the close relationship between staff morale, efficiency and productivity.

16. A critical review of the administrative aspects of personnel problems was no easy task because in every large organization there were pockets of resistance to change or improvement. In so far as there were administrative reasons for the decline in staff morale, the Secretary-General must continue to ensure that due regard was given to those factors and that they were ultimately eliminated.

17. He wished to make it clear that he intended no personal criticism of Mr. Gherab, the Director of Personnel. His delegation's intention was to co-operate with the Secretariat in the performance of what it regarded as a common task. The aim must be to preserve efficiency up to the highest level by preserving morale up to the highest level. The causes of the decline in morale related mainly to the human aspects. That was why supervisors at all levels should exercise care in their day-by-day behaviour towards those working under them.

18. As to the recommendations in category (e) referred to in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's preliminary comments that it was most important that there should be no discrimination in the treatment of staff members, particularly with regard to salary, no doubt the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System would have useful recommendations to make in that respect. It was also important to guard against injustices in applying the promotion system, referred to by the Secretary-General

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52.



in paragraph 3. Moreover, every effort must be made to guard against injustices in producing the periodic reports, or whatever procedure of performance evaluation might be adopted in accordance with the recommendations in category (d).

19. Commenting on the general concept of a career-development system, he noted that the Colombian delegation had always opposed recruitment of short-term staff because it believed it conflicted with the stimulus provided by a career service. Short-term staff often filled posts to which established staff had aspired as providing promotion opportunities. Thus, short-term recruitment could close promotion avenues for established staff. Moreover, short-term staff did not constitute a stable element of the Secretariat in the same way as the permanent staff and were not likely to display the same devotion to duty.

20. Injustices were no doubt to be found in all large organizations, but the United Nations, which reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person in the Charter, had a special duty to guard against such injustices.

21. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that his delegation felt that, in view of the level of expenditure on staff salaries, increased attention should be given to such questions as recruitment, training and productivity. For that reason, he had no objection to the additional appropriation of \$25,000 for studies on personnel problems recommended in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8552); those studies should help the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, to take the necessary decisions on the matters raised by the Bertrand report. The French delegation fully subscribed to the comments contained in that paragraph.

22. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that it appeared from the Secretary-General's preliminary comments on the Bertrand report that the purpose of the supplementary studies proposed by the Secretary-General would be to assess competitive examinations as they existed in different educational systems. Since educational standards sometimes varied greatly from one university to another even within the same country, his delegation had certain misgivings as to the usefulness of that exercise and feared that it was more likely to create political problems than to assist the United Nations. It was not for that reason, however, that his delegation opposed the additional appropriation of \$25,000 recommended in the Advisory Committee's report; rather, it believed that it should be possible for the Secretary-General to meet the costs involved from within the existing appropriations for consultants.

23. The proposal of the representative of Canada raised certain constitutional and practical problems, since the General Assembly could hardly request the Secretary-General to refer the Bertrand report to the heads of the specialized agencies and IAEA before it had considered the report itself. The correct time for such action would be after the twenty-seventh session, when the General Assembly had discussed the report and reached a decision on its recommendations.

24. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) recalled that, during the general discussion on agenda item 76, his delegation had empha-

sized the need to maintain high morale among the staff so that they would not be distracted from the essential aims of the United Nations.

25. In view of the importance of the Bertrand report, it was appropriate to postpone consideration of that document until the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly in order to allow time for the in-depth study which it warranted. In the meantime, however, it was important that the General Assembly should give some token of its interest in the matter, and his delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an additional appropriation of \$25,000 for 1972 to cover the cost of the supplementary studies proposed by the Secretary-General. In view of the large amount of money spent on staff salaries, it was in the common interest to ensure that personnel should in the future be recruited on the basis of objective and well-prepared competitive examinations, especially since the growth in United Nations membership meant that personnel were recruited from a large number of countries with different educational systems. The amount of \$25,000 requested was insignificant in relation to the total expenditure on staff salaries.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should postpone consideration of the item until the text of the Canadian proposal had been circulated to members.

#### AGENDA ITEM 82

Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)\* (A/8482, A/8503, A/C.5/1363 and Add.1, A/C.5/1368, A/C.5/1375, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49)

[See note following para. 3]

*Form of presentation of the budget (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49)*

27. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) recalled that when the representative of India had submitted his delegation's proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49), the Philippines delegation had suggested that the report should contain a reference to the fact that the question of programme budgeting should be taken up early in the twenty-seventh session.

28. The CHAIRMAN said that account would be taken of the suggestion made by the delegation of the Philippines.

29. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the introductory paragraph of the Indian proposal contained certain unnecessary affirmations. It was questionable, for example, whether the word "regrets" in the first sentence was appropriate. Similarly, it was questionable that the Fifth Committee could affirm that a final decision would be taken at the twenty-seventh session. It might be preferable to omit that phrase from the second sentence.

30. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that his delegation could more or less accept the Indian proposal.

\* Resumed from the 1467th meeting.

Nevertheless, it endorsed the Brazilian representative's comments concerning the introductory paragraph. The wording of subparagraph (a) might restrict deliberations unduly. It might be useful, therefore, if the words "mock-up and" and the word "alternative" were deleted and the words "including the presentations" inserted after the word "presentation" in that subparagraph.

31. Mr. NAITO (Japan) concurred with the representative of Brazil. The Committee should not prejudice the action to be taken in the matter by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. The reference to a final decision should therefore be omitted.

32. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) endorsed the comments made by the Brazilian representative. His delegation would co-operate with other delegations in an endeavour to prepare a more acceptable text for the introductory paragraph.

33. The amendment suggested by the representative of Denmark did not read very well in Spanish and would not clarify the text in that language.

34. Mr. NAUDY (France) suggested that the procedure proposed in subparagraph (c) might lead to delays in the preparation of the Advisory Committee's report.

35. The CHAIRMAN suggested that those delegations which were not fully satisfied with the text should enter into consultations with the Indian delegation with a view to preparing a final text acceptable to the Committee as a whole.

36. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) endorsed the Chairman's suggestion. While the proposal put forward by the representative of Denmark might lead to translation difficulties, it nevertheless did strengthen the text.

37. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that his delegation, too, supported the Chairman's suggestion. He failed to understand the Brazilian representative's objections to the word "regrets" in the introductory paragraph. It was indeed regrettable that the important question of the form of presentation of the budget had not been discussed during the twenty-sixth session and the word "regrets" was surely not intended as a criticism. The proposal put forward by the representative of Denmark merited attention; however, if its adoption would lead to further delays in consideration of the matter, it would not be acceptable to his delegation.

38. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he was very anxious that the Advisory Committee's report on the subject should not be delayed. The Advisory Committee hoped to deal with the question at its spring session in late April and early May. There were two provisions in the proposal that might lead to delay, namely, the procedure set forth in subparagraph (c) and the proposal in subparagraph (b) that the Secretary-General should present to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee a miniature mock-up covering a small segment of the 1973 estimates. Adoption of the procedure outlined in subparagraph (c) would mean that the Advisory Committee would not receive the comments of the Economic and Social

Council or CPC until late in June or early in July, at which time it would be considering the budget estimates for 1973. In those circumstances, he could not assure the Fifth Committee that the Advisory Committee's comments on the question would be available in time for the twenty-seventh session. Commenting on subparagraph (b), he noted that normally the Controller did not present the budget estimates until June; unless the schedule was altered, there might be difficulty in translating the estimates into a programme budget document in time for the twenty-seventh session.

39. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) drew attention to the fact that the document under consideration (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49) had been distributed only that morning; delegations must be allowed time to study it before taking a decision in the matter.

40. He agreed with the Chairman's suggestion that those delegations which had suggested amendments should consult with the Indian delegation with a view to preparing a final text. It was to be hoped that the final text would be circulated to delegations in writing in sufficient time to enable them to take a considered decision on the subject.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that every effort would be made to comply with the wishes of the representative of the Soviet Union. Members must realize, however, that the Committee was working under pressure; they should do everything possible to facilitate the Committee's work.

42. Mr. FAURA (Peru) endorsed the comments of the representative of Spain concerning the use of the word "regrets" in the introductory paragraph.

43. In so far as the comments of the representatives of Brazil and Denmark were concerned, his delegation did not consider that a reference to a final decision being taken at the twenty-seventh session would prejudice the work of the session. Unless the Committee stressed the need to take a decision, fruitful consideration of the question might be further delayed. The delegations preparing the final text of the proposal should bear that point in mind.

44. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria), referring to subparagraph (c), said that although it would be desirable to have the comments of the Economic and Social Council and CPC, the procedure suggested might prove counterproductive and lead to further delays. Indeed, the existing delay had resulted from the fact that the reports on the question had had to be submitted through the Council and CPC. He suggested, therefore, that subparagraph (c) should be deleted.

45. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that a decision on the proposal should be taken at the following meeting. Suggestions that might further delay a decision should be discarded.

46. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that blame for the delay in considering the question could not be placed on CPC. Indeed, CPC had had to postpone one of its sessions because it had not received the mock-up in time.

47. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that in the light of the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, his

delegation, too, was concerned lest the procedure set forth in subparagraph (c) might lead to further delays. In principle, therefore, it endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Austria. It would be interesting to know, however, whether the Economic and Social Council and CPC could submit their comments and suggestions directly to the Fifth Committee rather than through the Advisory Committee. If that proved feasible, the words "Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" could be replaced by the words "Fifth Committee" in that subparagraph.

48. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion of the proposal should be deferred until interested delegations, including those of Brazil, Denmark and Mexico, had consulted the delegation of India with a view to preparing a final text.

*It was so decided.*

#### *Inspection and evaluation of United Nations activities*

49. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to present its preliminary views on how the United Nations machinery for inspection and evaluation might be improved. During the preceding session (1367th meeting, para. 34) the United States had proposed reactivation of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to deal with the problem, but had now concluded that that would not be necessary, and that, in addition to improving internal management within each specialized agency, administrative control throughout the United Nations system could be improved by increasing the effectiveness of the Joint Inspection Unit. Continuous evaluation or inspection of the operation of each unit within the system was essential to ensure maximum efficiency. That procedure was followed by the United States Government and most other Governments. The United States had been a party to recommending establishment of the Unit in 1966, and in view of the expansion of United Nations activities, continued to believe that its task was essential.

50. Admittedly, much time and effort had been spent on controlling and co-ordinating United Nations activities, and some delegations feared that the level of effort in that field might be disproportionate to the level of programme activities. The United States did not share that fear, but agreed that current efforts must be rationalized. That was why the Inspection Unit should be made more effective. It was an important body because it could be objective and because its task was to conduct independent investigations of the activities of the different parts of the United Nations system, especially those aspects common to the various United Nations bodies. The Inspection Unit should examine selectively how each component of the United Nations system operated, report on the conditions it found and make recommendations for the consideration of Member States. He would be circulating an informal paper on the subject to members of the Committee. The United States suggestions for strengthening the Unit included the formulation of a clear programme of work and priorities; the development of a methodology for the Unit; the elaboration of criteria for selecting members of the Unit, both

inspectors and staff; the recruitment of a small but highly qualified permanent staff to assist the inspectors; the establishment of effective leadership in the Unit and a clearer definition of the independence of the inspectors.

51. The preliminary views of the United States delegation were being put forward to help members of the Committee to focus on some of the main questions concerning the Unit that would have to be considered in detail at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly. If other delegations could also formulate views on the question, consultations could continue during the months ahead, and possibly by the twenty-seventh session a consensus might develop on ways of strengthening inspection and evaluation in the United Nations system.

#### AGENDA ITEM 12

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters XXI and XXII) (continued) (A/8403, A/C.5/1394, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.50)**

52. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee accepted the inclusion in its report of the text proposed by the representative of India (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.50).

*It was so decided.*

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)\*

53. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that he was confident that his remarks would reflect the views of many other delegations. He recalled that the Secretary-General, in his statement (A/C.5/1376) at the 1427th meeting introducing the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3), had noted the urgent need for voluntary financial support, especially from the larger contributors. The Secretary-General had gone on to state that in the absence of a sufficient measure of support, he would see no alternative to proposing at the current session a series of restrictive measures designed to arrest any further increase in the deficit by ensuring that expenditures were in the future circumscribed by the resources actually available, with statutory and contractual obligations receiving first priority. Without wishing to prejudge the findings of Mr. Hambro, who had been attempting to find a solution to the financial problem, it was clear that a sufficient measure of voluntary support of the kind needed to put the Organization back on a sound financial footing had not yet been forthcoming. In the circumstances, the Committee would be failing in its duty as a responsible organ charged with overseeing the orderly management of the United Nations if it did not, before the end of the current session, seek from the Secretary-General an explicit statement of how he planned to meet the cash situation that would confront him during the remainder of 1971 and in 1972. While his delegation acknowledged the genuine differences of opinion that had been expressed in the Committee concerning the cash position of the Organization and its relationship to the deficit problem—it had in particular taken note of the position of the Group of 77, as explained

\* Resumed from the 1458th meeting.

to the Committee at its 1458th meeting in a communication (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25) from the Chairman of the Group—it nevertheless felt that the Committee could no longer delay making a request to the Secretary-General to provide it with further information in line with his statement at the 1427th meeting, in particular the passage to which he had referred earlier. Such information was essential if the Committee was to have the necessary facts at its disposal enabling it to take a responsible and well-balanced decision concerning the budget estimates. Accordingly, his delegation, speaking on behalf of a number of other interested delegations, wished to request the Secretary-General to submit such information at the earliest convenient date.

54. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that, since there had been no new development to alleviate the gloomy financial position outlined to the Committee at the beginning of the current session, with the exception of the voluntary contribution announced by the delegation of France, it would be extremely useful for the Committee to have an idea of the current liquidity situation. If the forebodings of bankruptcy were translated into facts and figures, they might serve to exert pressure on Member States to provide the voluntary contributions needed.

55. Mr. BROWN (Australia) endorsed the statement made by the representative of New Zealand. The question of the Organization's finances was one which must be tackled before the end of the current session of the General Assembly, especially if Mr. Hambro had not succeeded in finding a long-term solution to the deficit problem and the associated problem of the Organization's cash position.

56. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that it was one thing to ask for information but quite another to invite restrictive measures, as the New Zealand representative's reference to a passage in the Secretary-General's statement had seemed to imply. His delegation would not accept the imposition of any arbitrary restrictive measures, and if the New Zealand request was interpreted in that sense, it could not be a party to it. It should also be borne in mind that the Group

of 77, which represented a majority of Member States, had expressed itself clearly on the subject. He formally proposed that the Committee should not take a decision on the substance of the matter before hearing the views of the Secretary-General or his representative.

57. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he had understood the representatives of New Zealand and Italy to request information on two separate subjects: the restrictive measures which might be adopted and the Organization's current liquidity situation.

58. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said that he believed the New Zealand representative had done no more than request information on the cash position of the United Nations. Any such information would be of great interest to the Committee. However, he agreed with the representative of India that any decision on the substance of the matter should be deferred until the relevant information had been provided.

59. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that the request for information on the Organization's cash position was thoroughly justified and did not prejudice any decision which might eventually be taken on the basis of that information.

60. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the Committee was not being called upon to take a decision on the substance of the question. The representative of New Zealand, speaking on behalf of certain other delegations, had merely requested the Secretariat to provide information on the Organization's cash position for the remainder of 1971 and for 1972.

61. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that that was his understanding of the New Zealand request. If there were no objections, he would submit that request to the Controller.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. IVAN BACHEV,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BULGARIA**

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed the Committee's sympathy to the Government and people of Bulgaria on the tragic death of Mr. Ivan Bachev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and requested the representative of Bulgaria to convey the sentiments of the Committee to the family of Mr. Bachev and to the Government of Bulgaria.
2. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) thanked the Chairman and members of the Committee and said that their sympathy would be transmitted to the Government of Bulgaria and to the family of the deceased.

**AGENDA ITEM 84**

Personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8454, A/8483, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45 and 52):

- (a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (*concluded*) (A/8483, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45)

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (part I)* (*concluded*) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45)

3. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, referring to part I (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45) of the draft report of the Fifth Committee, drew attention to an error in paragraph 9, in which the words "The representative of Italy . . . to his country" should be replaced by the words "The representative of Italy said the visit of such a mission might be useful to his country".

*Part I* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.45) of the draft report was adopted.

- (b) Other personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52)

*Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems in the United Nations* (*continued*) (A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52)

4. Mr. N'DIAYE (Senegal) said that his delegation considered that the problems outlined in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8454) deserved special study

by the Committee. In view of the short time remaining for the current session, his delegation would favour postponement of the question until the twenty-seventh session. On the other hand, the Committee should take a positive decision by accepting the recommendations contained in document A/8545 calling for a more detailed study by the Secretary-General. Consequently, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's request for \$50,000 for that purpose.

5. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel), commenting on the Canadian proposal (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52) for the inclusion of a paragraph in the Committee's report, said that the contents of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit had been informally communicated to all the heads of the organizations in the United Nations family. He also pointed out that it might be difficult to transmit the views of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System because the latter might already have concluded its work.

6. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that it was scarcely surprising that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit had already been unofficially communicated to the heads of the specialized agencies and IAEA; that would not appear to be a reason for not supporting the Canadian proposal. He felt that the idea contained in subparagraph (c) of the proposal was a good one, but if the problem of timing was insurmountable, he was prepared to consider the deletion of the subparagraph.

7. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he had been given to understand that ACC would meet in April or May 1972, and that the Special Committee would continue to meet for several weeks after that date. Since the Inspection Unit's report had been available unofficially for some time, there should be no great difficulty in conveying ACC's tentative views on the report to the Special Committee.

8. Mr. PICK (Canada) agreed that subparagraph (c) should be retained, with the insertion of the words "if possible" at the beginning.

9. Mr. YEREMENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation considered that it was inadvisable to transmit officially a report that had not yet been considered and that the most appropriate course would be for the Director of Personnel to inform the specialized agencies unofficially.

10. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that the Special Committee, of which he was a member, would make recommendations which would ultimately apply to all specialized agencies and other members of the United Nations family. It might

therefore be useful for that Committee to have the specialized agencies' informal reaction to the Inspection Unit's report, which was very high on the list of priority matters to be considered by the Special Committee. The latter would then be in a position to make more realistic recommendations; there was no point in making recommendations that would clash with the views of the heads of the specialized agencies. He saw very considerable practical merit in the Canadian proposal. Moreover, it had no financial implications.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, since there was no quorum, the Committee could not take a vote on the request for \$25,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee.

12. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that, since it was always difficult for the Fifth Committee to provide a quorum, he would suggest that in the case of uncontroversial items the Committee should be able to take decisions notwithstanding the absence of a quorum. The Committee was master of its own procedure.

13. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee had already been taking decisions on a "no objection" basis, but when considering questions with financial implications, the Committee was bound to take a vote, in the event that a delegation objected to particular appropriations.

14. In reply to a question from the representative of the USSR, he explained that the financial implications on which the Committee had to take a decision comprised an additional appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 under section 3 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, as recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/8552, para. 5), for a follow-up study by the Secretary-General on some proposals contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit. The other decision before the Committee relating to that report was the Canadian proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52. Those decisions could not be taken in the absence of a quorum.

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*)\* (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2 to 21, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381 to 1384, A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/1400, A/C.5/1405 to 1408, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, 13, 14, 16, 22 and 25, E/5038)

*Electronic data processing in the United Nations family of organizations (A/8408/Add.16, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1)*

15. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, since

the Advisory Committee was not technically equipped to deal with computers, the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1) on such a complex matter as electronic data processing had given the Advisory Committee more trouble than perhaps any other report during the current session. He hoped, however, that the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.16) would be sufficiently intelligible to enable the Fifth Committee to take the necessary decisions.

16. In his report, the Secretary-General had fully responded to the recommendations contained in paragraph 218 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972.

17. Looking back over the preceding year, he said that the formation of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities (IOB) at Geneva had proceeded according to plan. A full-time Director of the IOB secretariat had been appointed with effect from 1 October 1971. He would be concerned, under the over-all direction of ACC, with developing inter-organization management information systems and establishing the policy guidelines for the planning and development of the International Computing Centre.

18. The composition and functions of the Centre, which had been established in March 1971, were different from those envisaged the previous year. There had been a change of emphasis; the staff would be more concerned with machine processing, key-punching and technical advice, leaving the users to provide most of their own systems analysis and programming needs.

19. Commenting on the Computing Centre in New York, he said that its size had increased considerably beyond that contemplated in 1970. Some of the staff who would have been transferred to Geneva had therefore remained in New York. Other posts had been added, and were being financed out of temporary assistance funds or charged against global vacancies. The situation had been further confused by the redistribution of posts between the New York Centre and the user departments.

20. Superimposed on that situation was a proposal (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, para. 42) that for the purposes of general management and control within the United Nations itself, the Secretary-General should create a new Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Office under the direction of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

21. The Secretary-General's proposal would require 25 additional established posts, as specified in the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.16, para. 4).

22. He drew attention to the Advisory Committee's conclusion (*ibid.*, paras. 25 and 26) that United Nations arrangements for electronic data processing needed to be strengthened; in particular, the Committee recommended that the first step should be taken to set up the Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Office, to be manned by two Professional and two General Service posts instead of four Professional and three General Service posts (*ibid.*, para. 22). The Advisory Committee had also agreed

\* Resumed from the 1479th meeting.

that two additional established posts be assigned to the New York Computing Centre: the post of D-1 to head the Centre and a new P-4 post. It had suggested, however, that the remaining posts should continue to be financed against global vacancies or out of temporary assistance funds; half of the amount required would be approved as an additional appropriation under section 3, chapter III (Other temporary assistance), the rest being charged against global vacancies. While that was not a very satisfying solution, the Advisory Committee was very anxious to avoid a recurrence of the miscalculations or misunderstandings that had occurred in 1970. It therefore recommended a cautious approach, so that there would be an opportunity for more mature consideration of the Organization's projects, particularly those set out in appendix 8 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1). Some of those projects, and the priority assigned to them, were very tentative: it was even doubtful whether it would be profitable for some of them to be put into the computer, and the Advisory Committee suggested that the Secretary-General should study the matter further.

23. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended an additional appropriation of \$356,400 (A/8408/Add.16, para. 27) as against the Secretary-General's request for \$663,000. Noting that the total amount recommended, including the additional appropriation, was less than the revised estimates for 1971 (*ibid.*, annex), he pointed out that two factors present in 1971 would not be present in 1972. Firstly, there were certain start-up costs incurred by the International Computing Centre, and secondly, there had been a period during 1971 when both the old model 7044 and the new IBM 360/40 had been required at the same time, it having taken longer than expected to phase out the 7044.

24. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1) represented an earnest endeavour to present the total costs of, and the management problems associated with, electronic data processing at United Nations Headquarters and Geneva. The review of projects within the Secretariat in New York which was discussed in paragraphs 48 and 49 had resulted in an identification of the minimum needs for electronic data processing services.

25. It was clear from the Secretary-General's report that a major part of the costs of electronic data processing activities were related to the manpower used, particularly, systems analysts and programmers and United Nations manpower requirements in New York, outlined in paragraphs 45 to 57. The magnitude of those activities at the United Nations in New York and Geneva and at the regional economic commissions, and the integration of such activities with the Inter-Organization Board and the International Computing Centre, had shown the need for a small but highly qualified staff and for a better cost-benefit analysis of new projects. It was for that purpose that the Secretary-General was requesting the necessary management staff. The Secretary-General was grateful to the Advisory Committee for recommending that the first step should be taken to make part of the manpower resources available for 1972 and would make a further progress report at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

26. Mr. SADDLER (Budget Division) said that the Office of the Controller had been closely associated with the survey of electronic data processing needs at Headquarters. Currently, implementation of the report might give rise to supplementary estimates in 1972. However, the Secretary-General would do everything to keep within the appropriations for 1972.

27. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that his delegation had always been interested in seeing to it that the Organization developed an effective managerial capability, including the use of up-to-date management tools such as electronic data processing, so that the Secretariat might utilize the resources placed at its disposal as efficiently and economically as possible. However, unless the use of the computer was closely controlled it could become an expensive modern gimmick.

28. His delegation had noted the effort that had been made to develop a co-ordinated approach to electronic data processing throughout the United Nations system, in particular, by the establishment of the International Computing Centre and the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities. Despite the fact that the Fifth Committee had approved the transfer of staff from New York to the International Computing Centre at Geneva, according to the Secretary-General's report some of the posts designated for transfer were now to be re-established in New York. His delegation therefore fully agreed with the conclusion in paragraph 41(d) of the report that there was an urgent need to co-ordinate electronic data processing activities centrally to assure a maximum return to the Organization and concurred in the desirability of transferring responsibility for electronic data processing management to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management. With regard to the number of staff required, his delegation favoured the recommendation in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Advisory Committee's report for a smaller staff than that suggested by the Secretary-General, at least in the initial stage.

29. He requested information from the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management concerning the level of direct and indirect effort being expended on electronic data processing by major organizational unit and source of funding, what the trend had been in the past and what it might be projected to be for the next five years. He further asked what effect the improved management and control mechanisms recommended by the Secretary-General might have on that trend and whether, in cost-benefit terms, the current arrangements were the most likely to achieve the objective of getting maximum benefit for high priority information processing needs at the lowest possible cost.

30. His delegation commended the Secretary-General upon his suggestions, for more effective management of electronic data processing facilities would benefit Member States as well as the Organization. Its questions were designed simply to determine whether the existing arrangements were the most desirable or whether other alternatives existed. If the information requested was not readily available, the Secretary-General might simply bear the questions in mind in order to ensure that the most effective



arrangements were made for electronic data processing management in the Organization.

31. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that his delegation shared the concern of other delegations over the state of electronic data processing as reflected in the Secretary-General's report and that of the Advisory Committee. Although the establishment of the International Computing Centre had not resulted so far in the expected reduction in the rate of acquisition of equipment and the slowing down in electronic data processing staff increases in the United Nations and Geneva-based agencies, such results could still be hoped for. The Centre must eliminate duplicate functions and generate a centralized processing system. However, centralization would take time, for recent events had demonstrated that agencies would not abandon their own information processing activities until they were convinced of the speed and efficiency of ICC services. Currently, the objective should be to ensure maximum co-operation between the agencies and ICC in laying the foundation for maximum utilization of the Centre. The Inter-Organization Board and ICC could play a vital role in laying that foundation through the co-ordination of electronic data processing procedures in the United Nations. It was essential to establish the greatest degree of uniformity in the layout and terminology of documents to facilitate their future retrieval; that had already begun. Furthermore, an appropriate division of work must be made between the facilities of ICC and those of the Geneva-based agencies in order to achieve maximum effective utilization of the Centre.

32. His delegation was concerned at the degree of utilization of the advanced equipment currently in ICC. According to appendix 3 of the Secretary-General's report, 85 per cent of production operations were for WHO and only 15 per cent for the United Nations. That was not surprising, since ICC was based on the WHO Computer Centre and WHO had therefore been able to convert its operational programmes quickly to the new equipment. Paragraph 22 of the report stated that it had been deemed essential to retain systems analysis and programming functions in WHO in order to ensure that development work would be carried out with a full understanding of WHO's specific needs. His delegation did not think it would be possible to have such an arrangement for WHO, yet consider denying it to other agencies, and had reservations as to whether that approach was desirable in the long run. Although paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report seemed to suggest that the information in appendix 3 of the Secretary-General's report no longer reflected the current situation, the figures given by the Advisory Committee were the same as those in appendix 3 and underscored the fact that the United Nations was still at the development stage in its work.

33. With regard to the Computing Centre in New York, he said that since staff requirements in New York had been expected to decline following the establishment of ICC, the scale of the current request for additional staff was such as to cast doubt on the validity of the entire operation. However, it was too early to make judgements. Instead, it should be determined what resources were needed to enable the concept of ICC to proceed and whether the allocation of those resources was justified by the long-term advantages that should accrue from the Centre. His delegation was prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's proposals as a

reasonable compromise and hoped that the question of the cost benefits of ICC would be reviewed critically at the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

34. His delegation had strong doubts about the wisdom of the proposal, in paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report, that systems analysts and programmers be carried on the manning table of the user departments. That would result in an unfortunate division between the electronic data processing staff and the users and would inevitably work against the development of an integrated information system, which had been a major factor in the establishment of ICC. It hoped that the proposal would be reviewed carefully, since it believed that in the most efficient applications of electronic data processing, highly professional systems analysts and programmers worked under a central direction in close co-operation with members of user departments. The professional group could provide services to and deal with the problems of several user departments in turn.

35. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 25 of its report that, while remedial action must be taken with regard to the provision of staff for New York, a cautious approach was indicated.

36. Finally, his delegation was somewhat concerned at the degree to which ICC was proceeding without direct contacts with Member Governments. Thought should be given to the possibility of engaging Member Governments more closely in the formulation of policy governing ICC operations. Although it was a complex question, the consequences of the expansion of electronic data processing in United Nations operations would have an impact on Member Governments, and it might be desirable if Governments could have a more direct role in relation to ICC at an early stage. His delegation supported the over-all recommendations of the Advisory Committee, including the financial implications in paragraphs 27 and 28.

37. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that the comments in paragraphs 6, 7 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report were very significant. The fact that, despite the under-utilization of ICC in Geneva, the Secretary-General was requesting 18 new Professional posts in the New York Centre—an increase of almost 100 per cent—led his delegation to agree with the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General's proposals amounted to a fundamental rethinking of the role the New York Centre should play in the United Nations electronic data processing activities although the new role was not defined anywhere in the reports. His delegation would have liked to see the future roles of each computing centre clearly defined so as to avoid duplication and obtain maximum benefit at minimum cost, and a comparative study made of the costs of the activities carried out by computer and the cost of the same activities carried out by other means. It would thus be made clear exactly what savings resulted from the use of computers.

38. While it favoured centralizing computer equipment for maximum efficiency, his delegation realized that over-centralization could be a disadvantage as users needed information promptly on the spot and did not want to be compelled to depend on outside equipment. Consequently,

as long as there was no way of telephoning data at a reasonable cost it was unlikely that users in New York would wish their data to be processed in Geneva and vice versa. Before installing costly equipment, therefore, users must commit themselves to scrapping their own electronic data processing systems. He concurred therefore in the Advisory Committee's advice that a cautious approach should be taken to the whole question.

39. His delegation failed to see why new equipment was being proposed for Geneva and New York. The Geneva IBM 360/65 computer had only been installed in the spring of 1971 and it was difficult to conceive that more recent technological developments had already rendered it obsolete. His delegation did not understand how replacement of equipment both in New York and at Geneva could fail to produce an increase in costs and wondered whether the cost would be the same for 1972 alone or for subsequent years as well. It also agreed with the Advisory Committee's warning that the existence of spare capacity might create strong temptation to computerize operations that were of marginal importance. Accordingly, before new computers were authorized, it should be established whether the programming design and adaptability of the equipment was such that it would result in significant economies as compared with conventional methods of performing the same operations. His delegation was surprised to note from paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's report that an inquiry had been initiated among users and potential users to establish the probable demand for ICC's services. Such an inquiry should have been conducted sooner, before the agreement on ICC was submitted to the General Assembly for approval; the ultimate decision might then have been different. Moreover, even if an inquiry revealed that the equipment would be under-utilized, the cost of dismantling it would be a serious deterrent.

40. Finally, a cost-benefit study was essential. No such study had ever been submitted to the Committee and the absence of such a study might lead to unnecessary expenditure. His delegation supported the idea put forward by the representative of Australia that the foundation should be laid for a centralized processing system by co-ordinating electronic data processing procedures within the United Nations system.

41. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that many delegations had expressed justified criticism in connexion with the extremely important question under consideration. Before stating its position, his delegation would require certain additional information from the Secretariat.

42. Referring to the Headquarters' computer systems projects described in appendix 8 of the Secretary-General's report, he said that the project descriptions showed that the programme in general was aimed at servicing the internal needs of the Secretariat and, in particular, the Budget Division. Obviously, electronic data processing was applicable to budgetary and similar operations, but the programme should be planned in such a way as to guarantee that vital programmes in the field of economic and social development would benefit. The new technology should cater not only to the needs of the Secretariat but also to those of Member States.

43. In the programme for 1972, the greater emphasis was on projects which were secondary—relating, for example, to the development of documents control statistics (project 35), the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (project 38) and the library (project 39). If that was the programme for 1972, his delegation would like to be told what had actually been done in 1971 by the New York Computing Centre and ICC at Geneva. It was most important to determine how far there was justification for the expenditure already incurred by the Organization and for the proposals to enlarge the staff of the Computing Centres and to establish special administrative machinery to co-ordinate them. He would be glad, therefore, if the Secretariat could provide a list of all projects undertaken by the two Centres, which would include details of projects expressed in the form of documents or research papers published and available for consultation by Member States. Governments, particularly those which were developing computer technology, should be in a position to obtain the views of their national specialists as to the extent to which the work actually undertaken was justified in the light of the tasks of the Organization.

44. He also wished to know what percentage of existing computer capacity was currently being used. His delegation, like that of Spain, wished to know how many staff members in the Budget Division and other units had been made available for other work as a result of the introduction of electronic data processing. It also wished to know whether the Computing Centres in New York and Geneva undertook work for outside contractors not connected with the United Nations. If they did, what was the percentage of such work by comparison with that undertaken for purely United Nations purposes? Was any income generated, and if so, how much? He also asked whether the Secretariat, in developing plans for United Nations computer facilities, had given consideration to the use of the national computer facilities of Member States on a commercial basis.

45. The United Nations computing centres should be a source of new technical cadres for Member States, and especially for the developing countries, and he would welcome details as to the composition of the staff, by nationality, at the New York and Geneva Centres.

46. Mr. NAUDY (France) associated his delegation wholeheartedly with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report. The latter represented an honourable compromise and, while they might not be entirely satisfactory, they showed some pragmatism. In the present case it was important not to enter into too great expenditure without mature consideration. The pace of change should be slow until its final direction was certain. In particular, the participation of the specialized agencies in the Geneva Centre should be studied very closely. He asked what would be the impact on the work of the Centres of the transfer of certain organizational units from New York to Geneva. His delegation awaited with interest the report which the Secretary-General was to submit in 1972 on the whole electronic data processing situation.

47. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) associated his delegation with the excellent analysis of the situation made by the representative of Australia. Referring to the statement in paragraph

18 of the Secretary-General's report, that various changes of equipment proposed would provide greatly enhanced capability with no increase in costs, he said that his delegation would like to be sure that the changes did not represent the thin end of the wedge which would lead to greater expenditure in the long run. Further comment by the Secretariat in that connexion might be useful. His delegation also wished to know whether the requirements of the New York Computing Centre had been reviewed by the Administrative Management Service because, much more than any other, the question was one of management. The Committee would be in a far better position to take a decision if the results of such a review were available to it.

48. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that the introduction of a new technology such as electronic data processing also involved the introduction of a new vocabulary and semantic problems. It was also a development which called for a re-thinking of management concepts. In that connexion, he pointed out that it had taken some six years for the managerial concept of programme budgeting to evolve from the point where programming and budgeting were regarded as quite distinct, even though they had always been two aspects of the same basic issue. In essence, electronic data processing was simple; it merely involved the storage of data which could be retrieved quickly and cheaply in any combination of relationships. Nevertheless, there was a tendency to remain attached to old concepts of co-ordination instead of thinking in terms of how the new technology would advance the management techniques of the specialized agencies. The core of the whole issue was the problem of management and it should be approached in that light. Semantic traps must be avoided. His delegation had therefore been heartened by the objective analysis of the situation by the Australian representative and had confidence that the Secretariat would see the Organization through the introduction of the technology successfully. He appreciated the position of the Spanish, USSR and Italian delegations, which had raised questions relating to the intermediate phase in the introduction of the technology.

49. His delegation was ready to support whole-heartedly the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

50. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by various delegations with regard to the documentation on the question under consideration. That concern was the more justified in the light of the statement, in paragraph 25 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.16), that the information available to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session when it had authorized the Secretary-General to participate in the establishment of ICC (resolution 2741 (XXV)) had been incomplete and in some respects inaccurate. His delegation supported the remedial action which the Advisory Committee had proposed, involving the establishment of centralized management structures. The absence of such structures was partly responsible for the shortcomings in the scheme submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

51. He drew attention to paragraph 45 of the Advisory Committee's first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for 1972 in which, concerned at the lack

of participation in ICC by specialized agencies, the Advisory Committee had urged all concerned to review their policies so that the Centre might at a very early date become a truly common facility for the United Nations family. He proposed that, when the Fifth Committee took a decision on the question before it, it should also take a decision with regard to that paragraph. He had no specific suggestion as to the form such a decision should take, but he proposed that the Committee should concur in the views of the Advisory Committee on the understanding that the action contemplated in the paragraph was taken and that the parties concerned would be urged to review their policies.

52. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation had been puzzled by the Advisory Committee's remark that ICC's facilities were under-utilized. He would welcome the comments of the specialized agencies on that point.

53. Mr. CHIVERS (International Labour Organisation) said that the ILO was most anxious to co-operate with the Inter-Organization Board and ICC and was doing so to a steadily increasing degree. It was a full and active member of the Board, had helped to draw up the list of priority items for its work programme and had co-operated with UNDP in preparing proposals for a work plan on the handling of documents related to development.

54. As to co-operation with ICC, his organization had rented a medium-range, in-house computer after careful consideration of the factors involved and of its own particular problems. The computer capacity was adequate to handle day-to-day applications developed over a number of years on which ILO operations had become entirely dependent and for which prompt, uninterrupted and flexible processing was essential. There was no incompatibility between the prudent maintenance of that vital rented facility and co-operation with ICC. Jointly with the Director of ICC, his organization was studying the best means of taking advantage of the Centre's facilities for work which could be most speedily and economically handled by it. It envisaged not only terminals connected to the central computer but also a link between central processing units which would enable certain work to be switched to the central equipment. His organization was working to achieve compatibility between its input and operating systems and those of the Centre. Whatever the increase in the ILO's work, there would be no increase in the size of its computer; more and more use would be made of the facilities provided by ICC.

55. The current situation was that: (a) work that could be most economically handled by ICC was submitted for processing by the Centre's computer—the quantity would increase steadily; (b) ILO staff were being trained to enable the ILO to exploit ICC facilities; (c) an ICC programmer had been invited to participate in the ILO's development of software for automated text storage; (d) the ILO was working with several other agencies on the further development of its system for document storage and retrieval; (e) the ILO was planning a direct link between the ICC computer and its own.

56. His organization was very conscious of the realities of inter-organization co-operation, which it would pursue to

the fullest extent possible within the framework of its practical concerns. The whole question was kept under constant review by the ILO and its Governing Body was to consider the matter again at its May 1972 session.

57. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) asked the representative of the ILO whether his organization had moved forward to an IBM 360/40 computer and if so whether that was the stoppage point.

58. Mr. CHIVERS (International Labour Organisation) said that the ILO had moved forward to such a computer and that the stoppage point had been reached.

59. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) requested a statement by the Secretariat, in precise terms, of all

relevant developments to date following ACC's decision with regard to the establishment of ICC, which had been approved by the General Assembly on the understanding that the Centre would become a system-wide institution. He asked what steps had been taken to persuade other agencies to become full participants in the work of the Centre and what the future prospects were in the light of the reluctance of agencies to participate.

60. As to the Secretary-General's report, he was highly suspicious of experts and would be grateful for a statement explaining which projects in appendix 8 were new and which represented a continuation of existing projects.

*The meeting rose at 10.30 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 84**

Personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8408/Add.3, A/8454, A/8483, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52):

(b) Other personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8408/Add.21, A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52)

*Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems in the United Nations (continued) (A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52)*

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the inclusion in its report to the General Assembly of the paragraph proposed by the delegation of Canada (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.52), subject to the oral revisions and explanations made by the representative of Canada at the previous meeting.

*It was so decided.*

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to make a full submission on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems in the United Nations (see A/8454) to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session, taking into account the views or recommendations of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and the results of the manpower utilization survey of the Office of Personnel to be carried out by the Administrative Management Service.

*It was so decided.*

*Staff training (A/8408/Add.21, A/C.5/1404)*

3. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report concerning staff training (A/8408/Add.21), said that, although the Advisory Committee had recommended some drastic reductions in the appropriations proposed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1404), it recognized the importance of staff training. In recommending those reductions, the Advisory Committee had been motivated by three considerations: firstly, if staff training was to produce the best results it should be carefully planned on the basis of clearly

established objectives; secondly, the Administrative Management Service was due to carry out its survey of the Office of Personnel early in 1972; thirdly, the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System was due to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. When the work of investigation had been carried out, the Fifth Committee would be able to take a more considered view of the question of staff training than was possible at the current session.

4. Turning to the individual aspects of staff training dealt with in paragraphs 6 to 19 of the Advisory Committee's report, he noted from paragraph 6 that, while the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's proposals for a limited strengthening of the related facilities, and in his estimate of additional cost, it was concerned at the tendency to release staff at periods of peak workload, which might entail additional expenditure. The release of staff should be related rather more closely to the workload of the Secretariat.

5. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report outlined the reasons underlying the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation for the study leave programme should be maintained at the amount already included in the initial budget estimates, rather than increased by \$100,000, as proposed in paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report. During consultations with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee had learnt that the Secretary-General had not so far found it necessary to replace any of the staff members granted study leave in 1971. In any event, the Advisory Committee doubted whether it was either practical or economical to try to recruit a temporary appointee to replace an incumbent absent for only a short period of study leave.

6. In paragraph 10 of its report, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's proposal to increase the appropriation for the training programme for Russian language posts from \$100,000 to \$107,000.

7. In paragraph 11, the Advisory Committee expressed reservations concerning the need to send United Nations language teachers to professional institutes in order to keep abreast of new techniques and therefore recommended that no additional appropriation should be made in 1972 to provide travel funds for staff training.

8. The Advisory Committee had had great difficulty in deciding upon the Secretary-General's proposal that in 1972 the United Nations should contribute \$200,000 to the budget of the proposed United Nations staff college. In view of the importance of the project, the information contained in the Secretary-General's report was not as ample as might be desired. The Advisory Committee had

therefore thought it necessary to go into the matter in greater depth and had held discussions with representatives of the Secretary-General and with the Executive Director of UNITAR in order to ascertain the precise standing of the proposed college in relation to UNITAR and to the other organizations in the United Nations system. Paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report explained that UNITAR's concern in the venture derived from article II, paragraph 2, of its statute, which stated that the Institute's training programmes might include training for staff members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, as well as for special United Nations field assignments. In that connexion, it was also appropriate to cite article VIII, paragraph 1, of the statute of UNITAR, which stated that the expenses of the Institute would be met from voluntary contributions made by Governments and other sources. The Executive Director of UNITAR had informed the Advisory Committee, however, that the staff college would be regarded as a United Nations and interagency enterprise, even though the Institute would play a key role in its operation, as proposed in the feasibility study and recommended by the UNITAR Board of Trustees. Since the project was to be regarded in that light, the Advisory Committee had felt that more information was required and that time was needed to look into the matter much more thoroughly than it had been possible to do. In particular, it was necessary to assess accurately the extent of support from other organizations in the United Nations system. In that connexion, the Advisory Committee had been mindful of the unfortunate example of the International Computing Centre, which had been established as a result of hasty decisions and without a full understanding of the project's implications. The Advisory Committee had been unable to satisfy itself that the specialized agencies fully supported the idea of a staff college. The Advisory Committee's interpretation of the ACC report of the meeting at which the matter had been discussed was that the question had not been examined in sufficient detail and that the executive heads of the specialized agencies had not regarded the project as a United Nations interagency exercise which they were prepared to support financially. It was stated in that report that the specialized agencies, while prepared to release staff to assist the Institute, could not provide financial assistance at the current stage.

9. Another point to be borne in mind was that, while the staff college was supposedly to be established on only an experimental basis, projects, once initiated, developed a momentum of their own and were likely to become permanent. Furthermore, while the annual expenditure for the first stage of the staff college's operation was estimated at only \$600,000, the second stage would undoubtedly be much more expensive, involving such costs as the acquisition of premises. The Advisory Committee had regretfully concluded that, given the current circumstances, the General Assembly should be recommended to defer consideration of the proposal until its twenty-seventh session.

10. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that he had been extremely shocked to read the section of the Advisory Committee's report relating to the proposed United Nations staff college (A/8408/Add.21, paras. 12-19). The over-all impression given in that section of the report was of a project that had not been fully prepared and had not

received the consent of the parties involved. Nothing could be further from the truth. His shock was increased by the fact that he had appeared in person before the Advisory Committee and had given assurances concerning the steps taken to prepare the project and the great care which had been exercised not only by the staff of UNITAR but by likely participants throughout the United Nations system. When the question of establishing a United Nations staff college had first arisen, he had asked all the specialized agencies whether, in their view, the project warranted investigation. Having received an affirmative reply, UNITAR had then commissioned a study—conducted by Mr. Richard Symonds, a university professor with great experience of the United Nations system—on the feasibility of a staff college. That study had been prepared with the concurrence of ACC and the co-operation of all the specialized agencies and other organizations in the system. The only sense in which the proposed staff college was a UNITAR project was that the Institute in accordance with its obligations under its statute had agreed to accept over-all leadership. The UNITAR Board of Trustees had supported the recommendations of the feasibility study, and certain proposals for action had then been submitted to and approved by ACC.

11. There was therefore no substance in the argument that the project did not have the support of the specialized agencies. The only doubt concerned the support of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly. If necessary, he could produce many documents to demonstrate agency support. The staff college was designed as an interagency project to be supervised by a management committee, comprising representatives of all the major specialized agencies. He had received replies from all the executive heads of specialized agencies concerning the competence and terms of reference of that committee. Not a single agency had voiced reservations about the staff college project. One of the most enthusiastic advocates of the proposal was the Administration of UNDP, which had decided, as a result of the Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System, to lend its support.

12. With regard to the financing arrangements for the staff college, he had held a meeting with the executive heads of the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO in Geneva in July 1971 at which he had received personal assurances of their complete support for the project and promises of staff to assist in the operation of the college. It was envisaged that the college would charge a capitation fee in respect of staff members from any organization in the United Nations system who participated in its courses; the heads of the specialized agencies had concurred in that proposal. However, the college required an estimated sum of \$600,000 to act as a core budget before any money was recovered. Many specialized agencies had a biennial budget cycle, and for that reason had been unable to contribute financially to the core budget at the current stage. However, the services of the staff which they had promised to provide to assist in the operation of the college were estimated to be worth \$200,000. Thus, \$400,000 had still been needed. A meeting had then been held with the Administration of UNDP at which it had been agreed that, if the United Nations supplied one half of that amount, UNDP would provide the remaining \$200,000. Part of the core budget would be recovered in capitation fees.

13. Failure to approve the project would cause disappointment to his colleagues in UNITAR, who had been working for two years to prepare the scheme, and dismay to the other organizations in the United Nations system, which were ready to proceed with it. Since there was common agreement on the advantages to be gained by ensuring staff efficiency, he hoped that the Fifth Committee would not frustrate the project and would authorize the necessary budgetary appropriations. Had it been possible to finance the staff college from voluntary contributions, he would certainly have done so. However, only one Government had volunteered support, while requests for assistance from foundations had been met with the very reasonable argument that an international organization like the United Nations should be able to provide funds to train its own staff. Moreover, any attempt to cover the cost of the staff college from the existing appropriations for UNITAR would inevitably be prejudicial to the Institute's activities, and in any event the staff college was not a UNITAR project.

14. What was needed was not further investigation but a policy decision, namely, whether the United Nations was prepared to invest money in promoting staff efficiency. The staff college project had received the endorsement of the Second Committee, and he hoped that the Fifth Committee would follow suit. The fact that the Advisory Committee had had little time to consider the project was not a reason for delaying it when UNITAR, the specialized agencies and many other organs concerned were ready to proceed.

15. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that staff training must be improved in the interests both of the Organization and of staff members themselves. It was essential for the latter to have a good grounding and even adequately qualified staff should be provided with opportunities to take retraining courses to enable them better to perform their international functions. Expenditure on training was a profitable investment particularly since staff costs had increased. In addition, training could be regarded as a necessary act of co-operation.

16. Some of the proposals relating to training before the Committee were excellent, others were less good, and others again were perhaps not justified. The training programme did not seem to have been planned in such a way as to achieve maximum efficiency and eliminate duplication. It was not surprising, therefore, that the Advisory Committee had found it necessary to recommend certain reductions. Nevertheless, his delegation was surprised at the Advisory Committee's lack of enthusiasm for the proposal to establish a United Nations staff college, in which the various training methods currently applied could be combined and integrated. Perhaps the Advisory Committee had been anxious to effect savings on a project which had not been recognized as having high priority. It did seem, however, that the project would serve as useful a purpose and was just as well prepared as other projects already approved by the Fifth Committee. As the Executive Director of UNITAR had so convincingly pointed out, Sir Robert Jackson had recommended, in his Capacity Study, that there should be a staff college, and ACC, on the basis of a feasibility study, had endorsed the project. It was important to bear in mind that the proposal would be implemented in two stages. The first stage would be purely

experimental and would involve a minimum of expenditure, and unless all concerned were satisfied that it was a success the second stage might not be embarked upon. Such caution augured well. The Advisory Committee argued that if the project derived from article II, paragraph 2, of the statute of UNITAR, the normal financing provisions of the Institute should apply and the project should be financed through voluntary contributions. It did seem, however, that the project was not really a UNITAR project but a special technical assistance type of project and, furthermore, one in which all the specialized agencies were interested. It was regrettable, therefore, that the Advisory Committee had recommended that consideration of it should be postponed. If, despite that recommendation, the general feeling in the Committee was that the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General should be approved, his delegation would be happy to support it.

17. Mr. ROSSIDES (Cyprus) said that since, according to the Executive Director of UNITAR, the project had been fully prepared, all the specialized agencies had been consulted about it, it had been approved by a preparatory committee of ACC and by the UNITAR Board of Trustees, an interagency panel of training officers had been established and training would be provided on a fee-paying basis, his delegation did not agree that consideration of the proposal should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session. It was very important that training should be provided for the staff, and the United Nations should bear its share of the costs of the project.

18. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the Executive Director of UNITAR had cleared up one very important point when he had said that the project was an interagency, not a UNITAR, project. Those who had read the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1404) had perhaps gained the impression from paragraph 15 that the project was a UNITAR project and therefore failed to understand why it should not be financed by means of voluntary contributions.

19. On two previous occasions his delegation had stressed the importance of staff training. The greater the variety of cultures and backgrounds from which the United Nations recruited its staff members, the more essential it was that it should try to establish some common ground between them. As the representative of France had pointed out, it was also necessary that retraining courses should be provided to enable the staff better to respond to the needs of international co-operation. In view of the importance of training and of the fact that there was a budgetary appropriation of over \$90 million for staff salaries, it was not surprising that the Organization should be requested to incur some expense for staff training.

20. Since, according to the Executive Director of UNITAR, matching contributions from UNDP and the specialized agencies would be forthcoming only if the United Nations contributed \$200,000, his delegation was willing to support the proposal.

21. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) said that the success or failure of any organization depended primarily on its membership. Improved training facilities for staff members were essential if the United Nations was to continue to play



its full part in a changing world. His delegation had read with interest paragraphs 15 to 18 of the Secretary-General's report on staff training and had also studied paragraphs 12 to 19 of the Advisory Committee's related report. Before taking a position on the matter, it had been anxious to learn the opinions of the Executive Director of UNITAR, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Having heard their statements, it was convinced that the project under discussion had been properly prepared, and he endorsed the comments made by the representative of France. Every year the Organization devoted a very substantial part of its budget to staff salaries; it seemed inappropriate, therefore, that it should demur at contributing a mere \$200,000 to a staff training project. The Fifth Committee should immediately take a decision which would make it possible for the project to be put into effect. His delegation fully supported the proposal made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his report.

22. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that, despite the pressure of time, his delegation felt obliged to explain its position on the subject of staff training. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the concept of staff training. Because it considered staff training important, it believed it essential that plans for such training should be worked out very carefully so that the General Assembly could be fully informed as to the needs to be met and the manner in which it was proposed that they should be met. Only if that was done could the Assembly take a responsible decision concerning the level of funds it should make available for training purposes. The major problems with the Secretary-General's report were, firstly, that it did not in a number of instances provide a complete picture of what was contemplated, and, secondly, that it had been submitted too late in the session to enable delegations to consider the proposals with the care they deserved. Such documents, the preparation of which was wholly within the control of the Secretariat, should be submitted to the General Assembly at the beginning of the session. For those reasons, his delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the various proposals for staff training set forth in the report.

23. Turning to the question of the proposed staff college, he said that, as indicated by the United States representative in the Second Committee (1384th meeting), his delegation strongly supported the concept of a staff college but did not believe that the financing of the college should be provided from the United Nations regular budget; it could not, therefore, agree to the proposed financing arrangements. His delegation wished, however, to express its appreciation to the Executive Director of UNITAR for the efforts he had made to develop and organize the staff college and hoped that they would meet with success during the coming year.

24. Mr. JOHNSON (Togo) said that his delegation fully shared the views expressed by the representative of France and the Executive Director of UNITAR. He could not over-emphasize the importance his delegation attached to the question of staff training. To train staff, particularly senior staff, was to make a long-term investment on which the future of the Organization would depend. His delegation did not agree that consideration of the proposal should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session. The project

had been fully prepared and could be put into effect forthwith.

25. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) thanked the Executive Director of UNITAR for his interesting and useful statement. It would be disappointing if the Fifth Committee, which had already approved the financial implications of many projects of doubtful value, were to refuse to endorse the proposal made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his report. It was not often that his delegation disagreed with the conclusions of the Advisory Committee; in the present case it did, and it regretted that the Advisory Committee had adopted so ambivalent an attitude to so worthy a cause. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the Secretary-General's proposal.

26. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that the question of staff training should have been considered earlier in the session, and the documents relating to it should therefore have been submitted earlier to the Advisory Committee and subsequently to the Fifth Committee.

27. Having studied the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee, his delegation had come to the conclusion that the Advisory Committee had considered the Secretary-General's proposals with all due care and had submitted very carefully worded recommendations. Hungary endorsed those recommendations.

28. In connexion with the staff college proposal, he observed that the Fifth Committee was in an unenviable position, for it sometimes found it necessary to cast doubts on the financial and administrative aspects of otherwise acceptable projects. His delegation fully agreed that staff training facilities within the United Nations system of organizations should be improved, but it felt that various sections of the Secretary-General's report, including those relating to career development training and training programmes, should have been merged with the section relating to the United Nations staff college, since it was very difficult to distinguish between career-development training and the training to be provided by the staff college. The question of the establishment of a staff college should therefore be treated with caution, and the distinction between the training to be provided by the staff college and that to be provided under other United Nations training programmes should be clearly defined.

29. While his delegation considered that every effort should be made to reduce the cost of documentation, it was of the opinion that more than one page should have been devoted to the important question of the staff college in the Secretary-General's report. So far as the budgetary factors of the proposal were concerned, Hungary fully agreed with the Advisory Committee that several financial and administrative questions should be resolved before a final decision was taken. It also shared the Advisory Committee's misgivings concerning the proposition that some organizations should be contributors in cash and others in kind. It would be very difficult to decide what constituted a contribution in kind. It was also unsatisfactory that no form of budget for the proposal had been provided. As a member of the Advisory Committee he had seen a budget, but it had not been well planned and would give rise to many problems. For all those reasons, it would

seem advisable to endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendation that consideration of the proposal should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session.

30. His delegation was not convinced that the project should not be considered a UNITAR, rather than an interagency, project. It therefore counselled caution in approaching the question.

31. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that he had listened with interest to the eloquent statement of the Executive Director of UNITAR and the cogent remarks of the representatives of France and Italy. India had supported the staff college proposal in the Second Committee and in the UNITAR Board of Trustees. The Executive Director had dealt succinctly with the preoccupations of the Advisory Committee, and there seemed to be no reason why doubts on the question should persist. His delegation was aware that the most carefully devised financial arrangements sometimes collapsed, but in the case of the staff college it would not be possible for one Member State to upset the arrangement. His delegation would support the proposal.

32. He noted that difficulties had been caused by the poor drafting of section V of the Secretary-General's report. Care should be taken in future to spell out issues much more clearly.

33. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that his delegation endorsed the proposal for a staff college. It also endorsed the Organization's training programmes as a whole. In view of the fact that the United Nations was being asked to contribute only \$200,000 for the college, that no one was opposed to the idea of a staff college and that Sir Robert Jackson had recommended that one should be established, it was surprising to learn that the Advisory Committee entertained some doubts concerning the proposal. In the discussions on section 3 of the budget estimates for 1972, several delegations had stressed the need to increase the staff's productivity; yet it seemed that those same delegations were opposed to the proposal to establish a staff college, which would provide a means of increasing productivity. His delegation fully supported the proposal.

34. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the creation of a staff college to train United Nations personnel would be an act of great consequence, since it would introduce a new element into the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and would mean restructuring the existing system of staff training. Consequently, the Fifth Committee should adopt a cautious approach.

35. He was grateful to the Executive Director of UNITAR for his statement, but the Soviet delegation found itself in a difficult position. The explanations concerning the proposed establishment of the new interagency institution were contained in only four short paragraphs—15 to 18—of the Secretary-General's report, and no other basic data were available to help the Fifth Committee to obtain a clear picture of the details of the proposal. The Committee had been told that ACC had dealt with the question and was taking measures with a view to setting up the staff college. But ACC was composed of the executive heads of the specialized agencies, and the organization of so important a

project—how it would function, who would participate, admission requirements, curriculum, and so forth—must be considered by the legislative organs, which alone could decide whether to contribute to the financing of the new venture. The Fifth Committee would not wish to see a repetition of the unfortunate experience with the International Computing Centre. If the views of the legislative bodies of the specialized agencies were available, the Committee would know that it could count on the agencies' interest in participating, and could more easily reach a final decision.

36. The Secretary-General's report referred to certain questions that needed further study. A second stage was envisaged, in which national officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations could be trained; thus, the college would not really be an exclusively United Nations undertaking, although many delegations had expressed a desire for such an institution because it would serve United Nations needs. But apparently the programme was to go beyond the training or retraining of United Nations staff. He did not see the need for the staff college to function as an international education centre. There was no reason why the regular budgets of the United Nations and the agencies should be burdened with the costs of a world training programme that would include non-governmental organizations. He would be interested in knowing which non-governmental organizations would be included, and what category of national officials. None of those questions had been answered in the Secretary-General's report or in the statement by the Executive Director of UNITAR. To say that the programme would begin on a provisional basis meant nothing, since experience showed that such provisional measures invariably became permanent.

37. The members of ACC should be asked to place the item on the agenda of the legislative organs of their agencies, so that those organs could provide their views. All the details concerning the organization of the college needed to be examined before a decision to approve the project was taken. The main issue was not the financial aspect, but the form of the project itself. Until it was clear whether or not the college would increase the qualifications and productivity of staff members, its desirability could not be determined. His delegation therefore agreed with the Advisory Committee that consideration of the question be deferred until the twenty-seventh session, not because there was no time to deal with it at the current stage, but because a solid and detailed basis for the project should first be established so that the Fifth Committee could take a position on the substance of the question.

38. If the views of the legislative organs of the agencies were known, their needs could be considered in establishing the staff college; they could make proposals concerning the curriculum and could assure the United Nations they would take an active part in implementing the project. Unless that was done, the United Nations should not assume the additional costs of a new institution.

39. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) endorsed the views of the representatives of Argentina and France. Staff training needs were constantly expanding, and whatever was done to meet them would benefit the United Nations. Improving the quality of the staff was the best way to ensure the

efficiency of the United Nations, and consequently Ecuador was ready to support the inclusion of \$200,000 in the budget estimates for 1972 for the staff college. The statement by the Executive Director of UNITAR had made the programme quite clear, and the Fifth Committee should approve the proposal. He did not agree with the Soviet representative that it was for the Fifth Committee to decide how the project should be executed or on what principles it should be based. That was a matter for the Secretary-General, the executive heads of the agencies and the Executive Director of UNITAR to agree on.

40. With regard to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report, he would like to hear the comments of the representative of the Secretary-General concerning the effect on study leave of the proposed reduction in the appropriation.

41. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) endorsed the comments of those who had referred to the late submission of the documents under consideration. His delegation must, exceptionally, disagree with the Advisory Committee's recommendation in the case of the staff college proposal. He agreed with the representative of Kenya that the proposal would be of long-term benefit to the United Nations. The Fifth Committee had often said that it was important to halt the expansion of the staff by making better use of the existing staff. Consequently, the Committee should have no hesitation in accepting the proposal for a staff training project. Nigeria therefore supported the Secretary-General's recommendation for an appropriation of \$200,000 for that purpose, particularly since it would also cater to the specialized agencies. The project had been well thought out and properly prepared. He did not understand the Soviet delegation's objection to the provision of training for national officials of countries desiring it. It was not correct to say that the Fifth Committee had no information about the courses to be given; paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's report contained information on that point.

42. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) supported the staff college proposal. He was convinced that it would increase the professional competence of the Secretariat and lead to higher productivity, a goal frequently referred to as desirable in the Fifth Committee. His delegation would, with regret, vote against the Advisory Committee's recommendation and in favour of the Secretary-General's proposal.

43. Miss DIRANI (Lebanon) associated herself with the views of those who had supported the proposal.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION I SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8558 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 41\* (A/8408/ADD.23, A/C.5/1414 AND CORR.1)**

44. Mr. PÉREZ-GUERRERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that UNCTAD believed it was important to adapt to

current circumstances and take a dynamic approach to its work programme; consequently, when it was prepared, not all the data needed for estimating the financial implications were available. In mid-1971 an important meeting of the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology had been held, and had approved the work programme that UNCTAD was required to carry out over the following two years. The Group had only a limited life, even though according to resolutions of the General Assembly and the Trade and Development Board UNCTAD was recognized as having responsibility in the transfer of technology, on a continuing basis.

45. UNCTAD attached great importance to its ability to fulfil the work programme on the transfer of technology. It was an important part of UNCTAD's work, and also of the work on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. In 1970 he had stated that it was too early to say how much staff would be needed for that. He had wished to see if it was possible to absorb the additional work with the existing staff, but the limit had now been reached. The Intergovernmental Group had asked UNCTAD to do more, and UNCTAD must prepare for the extra work.

46. He believed UNCTAD had given proof of its willingness to make the maximum use of its existing resources. But in the current instance he hoped that he would be given the additional staff asked for in a request by the Trade and Development Board, and endorsed by the Second Committee in the draft resolution adopted on the subject (A/8558, para. 18, draft resolution I). UNCTAD had asked for one additional Professional post and one additional General Service post (see A/C.5/1414 and Corr.1, para. 6). There was no intention of making the Transfer of Technology Unit too big; it was merely part of an existing division of UNCTAD, and would never expand much. Currently it was in the formative stage. If UNCTAD's request was granted, the Unit could remain at that level for some time, and would be able to carry out the work required by the Board.

47. He had hoped that the request would be approved, but apparently the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report (A/8408/Add.23), had not recommended its approval. He recognized the need for the Advisory Committee to make effective savings in the United Nations budget, but the current situation was one that must be taken seriously. If the additional staff were not provided, the work programme in the important field of the transfer of technology would be hampered. He could not guarantee that the absence of the additional staff could be offset by use of existing staff resources. Other savings might be absorbed, but in the current instance the situation would be very difficult indeed. He was prepared to provide additional justification, if the Advisory Committee or the Fifth Committee considered that the information provided thus far was insufficient. Apparently the Advisory Committee had doubts regarding UNCTAD's duties with respect to the transfer of technology, in relation to those of other agencies, but UNCTAD had a major responsibility in that area. In other areas the responsibility of other bodies might be greater than that of UNCTAD. In the transfer of technology UNCTAD had a duty to the United Nations as a whole, and to all the developing countries. He could assure

\* United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Report of the Trade and Development Board;

(b) Confirmation of appointment of the Secretary-General of the Conference.

the Advisory Committee that there was no overlapping between what UNCTAD was doing in that area and what was being done by UNIDO. He hoped that he could convince the Advisory Committee that UNCTAD really needed the posts asked for. UNCTAD was pressed for time in regard to the preparations for the third session of the Conference, at which it hoped to announce that the work programme on the transfer of technology was fully under way, as it would be once the resources asked for were available.

48. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that he wished to know if the additional sum of \$202,000 referred to in paragraph 10 of the statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/1414 and Corr.1) of the Second Committee's draft resolution would cover the additional week of the third session of the Conference voted by the Trade and Development Board and also the introduction of Chinese as an official or working language, since China would be represented at Santiago. If those two items were not covered, he wished to know why the problem had not been envisaged, in view of the certainty that all Member States and specialized agencies would be represented at the session.

49. He agreed with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the need for new posts in the Transfer of Technology Unit. It appeared from the Advisory Committee's report that that Committee had not appreciated how the problem had developed in 1971, within various United Nations organs. After some years of effort the developing countries had obtained from the Trade and Development Board the establishment of the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology. Clearly the subject was within the sphere of responsibility of UNCTAD. That had also been recognized in Economic and Social Council resolution 1621 B (LI), paragraph 3, and in the last preambular paragraph of the same resolution the Council had noted with satisfaction the establishment by the Trade and Development Board of the Intergovernmental Group.

50. The Intergovernmental Group had drawn up a specific programme of work, which had been generally accepted

and which the Second Committee had approved, without objection, at its 1432nd meeting (see A/8558, para. 18, draft resolution II). Thus the Secretary-General of UNCTAD could carry out, with the approval of the Trade and Development Board, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, activities concerning the transfer of technology that were essential and were not being duplicated by UNIDO. He believed that failure to provide the two posts would paralyse activities of which the developing countries had great hopes.

51. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he was glad that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had agreed that the question of co-ordination should be examined, since that was all the Advisory Committee asked. The Committee's report embodied conclusions reached on the basis of meetings with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD over a number of years in Geneva, and after conversations in New York with representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including the Controller, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Director of the Administrative Management Service. Although clearly the matter was largely a question of judgement, the Advisory Committee had felt, in the light of all those discussions, that the two posts were not essential for carrying out UNCTAD's work. The Advisory Committee had not said that the work should not be done, and it had no wish to paralyse work on the transfer of technology. However, in order to put the matter in perspective, it should be noted that UNCTAD had 162 Professional and 145 General Service staff, and that its staff had expanded more rapidly than that of the United Nations generally. That was as it should be, but it could hardly be asserted that the refusal of two additional posts would paralyse the organization. He believed that UNCTAD could absorb the extra work without having additional staff. That was the Advisory Committee's view, and it was for the Fifth Committee to decide whether, in the light of the statement by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, the Advisory Committee was wrong.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*





Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Woschnagg (Austria),  
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)\*  
(for the documentation, see the 1481st meeting)

*Electronic data processing in the United Nations family of  
organizations (continued)\* (A/8408/Add.16, A/C.5/1378  
and Corr.1)*

1. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) recalled that the United States representative had inquired at the 1481st meeting, about the level of expenditure, both direct and indirect, on electronic data processing within the Secretariat. In reply, he said that except for very insignificant amounts all such expenditure came from regular budget funds. Indirect expenditure could only be given in the form of estimates because there were no information systems for recording it within the United Nations. The most reliable figures available suggested that, for 1970, the direct and indirect amounts were: United Nations, \$2,334,000; UNCTAD, \$222,000; UNIDO, \$193,000; regional commissions, UNESOB and the United Nations Office at Geneva, \$468,000. The total expenditure was \$3,217,000. The trend over the preceding few years could not be charted reliably but was known to be upwards and, over the next five years, was expected to approach a figure in excess of 3 per cent of the United Nations budget annually, in terms of growth in real usage deflated for price level increases.

2. The United States representative had also asked how the management and control mechanism recommended by the Secretary-General would effect that trend. The major impact would be to ensure the most efficient and effective use of the resources devoted to electronic data processing. At the current stage, it would not be prudent to predict that the new management capability would or should alter the trend. That capability would definitely be justified if the increased utilization of electronic data processing resulted in a positive cost-benefit ratio, if Governments accepted that the objectives were those which they would wish the Secretary-General to pursue in the Organization's work programmes and if, in consequence, they were prepared to make available the necessary resources.

3. Replying to a further question put by the United States representative, he said that, in the view of the Secretary-

General, the proposals placed before the Committee in his report (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1) were the arrangements most likely to yield the maximum benefit when considered in the context of the Secretary-General's over-all proposal. The Secretariat had utilized a proper balance of outside experts and Secretariat talent to produce a carefully prepared study of the matter.

4. The Australian representative (1481st meeting) had made an important contribution by pointing out that it was still much too early to decide whether the current electronic data processing system was the right one. As in other technical situations, differences of opinion did exist. The Australian representative had questioned the utility of placing systems analysts and programming staff on the user's manning table. In reply, he stressed that even though such staff would be on the user's manning table they would be supervised and their work co-ordinated in all technical matters by the New York Computing Centre management. That managerial duality was becoming accepted in a number of the most advanced electronic data processing applications; on the one hand, the user department was concerned to make optimum use of the analyst and programming staff and on the other, the Computing Centre acted as a counterbalancing force, exerting maximum pressure from an informed and equally expert orientation, to make sure that the user's systems analyst and programming staff yielded the best technical and professional output. The Secretariat hoped that the Committee would consider it prudent for the Secretary-General to continue to pursue the existing course. The latter was interested in the suggestion regarding an enhanced role for Governments in providing policy direction in the electronic data processing field. Such a role might be played through the Economic and Social Council or through other arrangements.

5. Replying to questions put by the representative of Spain (*ibid.*), he offered the Secretary-General's assurances that, if granted the additional electronic data processing management assistance, everything possible would be done to clarify and delimit the functions of the two Centres and to keep their operations under constant review. The Secretariat would try to avoid duplication but that required the attention of qualified staff. The representative of Spain had requested confirmation that the charges for rental of equipment would not increase. In reply, he noted that the Secretary-General was proposing to take advantage of newer models of certain equipment, which had either faster processing speeds or enlarged storage capacity, for the same rental charge, thereby taking advantage of the newer developments in technology. The proposal was a specific example of what improved management could yield in the way of benefits to the Organization.

6. Replying to questions raised by the USSR representative (*ibid.*), he said that while he agreed that part of the

\* Resumed from the 1481st meeting.

New York Computing Centre facility would be devoted to certain non-substantive administrative applications, that was not necessarily undesirable or uneconomical. United Nations experience in that regard, confirmed by experts, was very similar to that of Governments and industry. Such functions as payrolling, accounting and information reporting were extremely important. There were, of course, a number of substantive uses for electronic data processing in the economic and social field other than those related to United Nations statistical work. The Secretariat expected those applications to be developed.

7. The Soviet representative had inquired further what had been done in 1971 by the two Centres. In appendix 8 of the Secretary-General's report, "A" priority projects had been under way in 1971; "B" priority projects were new, computer-based systems or improvements to existing systems and "C" projects would be started in 1972. The International Computing Centre at Geneva had been engaged in processing United Nations trade statistics, ECE economic studies, UNCTAD's port studies and other trade analysis, in addition to administrative work for UNCTAD and the United Nations Office at Geneva. There was no readily available compilation of reports reflecting that situation but the Secretariat would try to provide one in future.

8. The Soviet representative had asked what percentage of the capacity of the equipment was currently being used. The type of equipment in use could carry on a number of operations simultaneously. Parts of it might be used for one group of operations while other parts were engaged, simultaneously, in other operations. Any single measure of usage was somewhat misleading unless it was understood against that background. At the moment, some two shifts per day were being used in New York. The figure for Geneva was approximately one and one half shifts per day.

9. The USSR representative had also asked how many staff had been liberated through the introduction of electronic data processing. In practice, staff were rarely liberated in that way because the growth in the volume of work absorbed freed staff. He pointed out, for example, that between 1965 and 1970 the workload of the Accounts Division had increased by approximately 40 per cent while its staff had been reduced by three posts as the result of the introduction of electronic data processing. In the five years preceding the introduction of electronic data processing in 1965, the staff had increased from 57 in 1959 to 104 in 1964. That was a good example of the way in which requests for additional staff were stabilized by the introduction of electronic data processing.

10. The USSR representative had further inquired whether the Computing Centres undertook work for outside sources. In reply, he said that both Centres were available to outside sources on a fee payment basis for work which each was capable of doing. Income in 1971 had been \$280,000 in the case of New York and an estimated \$37,000 for Geneva. The USSR representative had also asked whether the use of national computers on a contractual basis had been studied. In reply, he said that the United Nations had, for the preceding several years, utilized non-United Nations facilities at Bangkok, Santiago, Mexico, Beirut, and in New York. That experience had shown that,

to date, non-United Nations facilities had, on a per hour basis, cost approximately the same as United Nations-operated facilities. In Bangkok, the growth of other work being processed on the same facility had meant that additional capacity had been difficult to obtain. In New York, the library project would be displaced from an outside computer in 1972. The use of non-United Nations facilities usually involved a number of problems such as the transmission or storage of data awaiting processing, adjusting delays to the priorities of the main user, a high ratio of reruns, lack of knowledge of breakdowns or shutdowns for maintenance, among others.

11. As to the question, also raised by the USSR representative, of the composition by nationality of the Professional staff at the two Centres, he said that the Professional staff at Geneva and the 22 such staff in New York were drawn from Canada, France, India, Lebanon, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

12. The representative of France had raised the question (*ibid.*) of the impact of the Centres on the transfer of certain services to Geneva. In reply, he said that not all staff located in New York utilized the computer. A transfer of staff involved in electronic data processing applications would relieve the pressure in New York but there were certain practical difficulties in that approach. If, for example, all payrolling was done in Geneva, air line strikes and the like could cause delays in the receipt of pay cheques by staff. The division of staff between the two Centres would lead to further fragmentation and management difficulties. Unless the issue was approached very carefully, the transfer of staff to Geneva was not a ready-made solution.

13. Of the two questions asked by the representative of Italy (*ibid.*), the first had been covered by his reply to the representative to Spain and the second was whether the requirements of the New York Computing Centre had been considered by the Administrative Management Service. In that connexion, he drew attention to paragraph 40 of the Secretary-General's report, which stated that the Service had reviewed the Centre in late 1970 and early 1971. That review had led to the more detailed review by the task force in which the Service had also participated. Economic and social work occupied a substantial part of the total facility and would expand; substantive United Nations activities in the political field did not as yet involve utilizing United Nations electronic data processing facilities.

14. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had asked (*ibid.*) for a statement, in precise terms, of what had happened since ACC had taken the decision to establish the International Centre. In reply, he recalled that the Auditor-General of Canada had prepared two reports on electronic data processing. The first, submitted in 1969, had provided for a series of sequential steps leading to the establishment of ICC at Geneva in 1971. The second report<sup>1</sup> had been submitted to ACC in 1970 and subsequently to the Economic and Social Council, which had

<sup>1</sup> See document A/8072, pertaining to items 12 and 73 of the agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, issued separately (offset).



welcomed it in its resolution 1551 (XLIX). Several delegations had at that time expressed their Governments' interest in making use of a computer centre's facilities, were one to be established at Geneva. At approximately the same time, it had been learned that some of the specialized agencies in Europe were contemplating installing larger computers at higher cost. It had thus become evident that urgent action was required to establish ICC at Geneva in order to provide an immediate alternative to any substantial increase in their individual installation by the specialized agencies and United Nations Headquarters. As a result, the Secretary-General had presented the proposals in a report<sup>2</sup> to the General Assembly at the preceding session. In addition, the Secretary-General had proposed the establishment of ICC at Geneva one year in advance of the date recommended by the Auditor-General. In order to undertake that more urgent action, therefore, certain assumptions, based on the best advice available to the Secretary-General at the time, had been made as to the character or role of a computing centre at Geneva and of the staffing levels required to fulfil that role. That, in turn, had called for certain assumptions as to the character or role, staffing levels and computer requirements of the New York Computing Centre, as well as regarding the time and cost involved in achieving the new configuration and the continuing costs thereafter.

15. Subsequent experience had shown some of those assumptions to be invalid in practice—at least those relating to the number and the position of the systems analysts and programmers and the effort and time required to change various information systems from one computer system to another and to carry out the transfer of work from New York to Geneva.

16. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) drew attention to the statement, in paragraph 326 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, that the estimate of \$310,000 under income section 3 for services rendered by the computer facility in New York was to be reviewed later in 1971 in the light of arrangements governing the participation of UNDP in the Centre at Geneva. He suggested that, in the budget estimates for 1973 and future years, such income should be singled out for inclusion in a special chapter instead of being buried in article (ii) of income section 3. He also enquired whether the income in question was merely reimbursement of services or profit on a commercial basis.

17. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he was grateful for the replies to his delegation's questions by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management. What it had been seeking, however, was information on the extent of the participation by specialized agencies in ICC and the prospects for their future participation. The General Assembly's decision to establish ICC had been taken on the understanding that it was to be a common computing system. His delegation wished to know precisely what progress had been made in that direction but would not press for a reply at that stage.

18. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that the important objective of an integrated information system could be achieved only if there was adequate central control. It was not possible to state dogmatically whether a programmer or a systems analyst should be on the manning table of a user department; there could be cases where such positioning would be justified. The Under-Secretary-General, however, had indicated that the arrangements would involve the New York Computing Centre acting as a counterbalancing force. Appendix 9 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1) showed that only 13 analysts and programmers would be on the Secretariat staff, a figure which was hardly adequate to provide the counterbalancing envisaged. Instead of establishing new posts, therefore, one approach would be to move qualified staff into the Computing Centre, where they would perform the necessary co-ordinating role. If a more reasonable balance was not achieved, further co-ordination problems would arise in the near future.

19. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, like the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he was not entirely satisfied by the Under-Secretary-General's replies to his questions. Every institution, and especially one concerned with the processing of data, maintained a general record of the work which it accomplished. In the case of the Computing Centre, therefore, there was surely some document somewhere which showed what work had been done in 1971 and what data had been obtained from that work. The Secretariat's failure to indicate what specific tasks had been accomplished by the two Centres in 1971 suggested either that the records of work done were poorly maintained or that the staff responsible were simply reluctant to admit that very little had in fact been accomplished. The answer to his question as to what percentage of the capacity of the equipment was used had been given in terms of shifts per day. Only a specialist in electronic data processing could fully understand that system of measurement. It ought to be possible to say whether the equipment had been used at 100 per cent capacity or not.

20. The reply to his question as to how many staff had been liberated by the introduction of electronic data processing had been convincing in the sense that the equipment had made it possible to stabilize the staff level, even though it had not led to a reduction of staff. Nevertheless, the Secretary-General could usefully consider whether staff engaged in simple accounting tasks which had been computerized could not be liberated.

21. As to the question of work undertaken for outside sources, his delegation wished to know whether those sources were United Nations agencies or whether they were actually outsiders—for example, foreign companies. The question was extremely important; it could rightly be asked whether the United Nations should develop electronic data processing facilities to service foreign firms or institutions or to service the United Nations system itself. The question was whether the Centres were to be United Nations institutions or commercial undertakings under the auspices of the United Nations. His delegation's approach would differ depending on whether the work in question was undertaken for the United Nations or merely to earn income.

<sup>2</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 73, document A/C.5/1305.

22. The answer to his question concerning the possible use of national computing resources, and particularly the reference to Santiago, had been somewhat unclear. As to the reply to his question concerning the composition by nationality of the staff of the Centres, his delegation would have preferred the Secretariat to provide a table showing the numbers of staff recruited from each country. Such a document would have given the Committee a complete picture of the situation.

23. Mr. MARRON (Spain) asked the Under-Secretary-General whether the Secretariat, when contemplating the acquisition of new computer facilities, considered the possibility of outright purchase rather than rental. According to the documents before the Committee, it would appear that all hardware was rented; but rental charges included depreciation and interest on capital, and might over a number of years exceed the purchase price. In addition, there was often a provision for the replacement of the rental machine by the latest model, which would necessarily be the most expensive. That added further to the rental cost. Perhaps it was not necessary always to have the latest model. He also wondered whether it was possible for the Centres to earn income by placing the computer facilities at the disposal of outside users, provided their demands could be met within the existing capacity.

24. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that while he was aware that the transfer of personnel from one city to another was not a panacea, he wished to know whether there would be any advantage in locating at Geneva the most important services requiring computer facilities, for example, UNDP and certain economic and social units. He asked what effect that would have on the structure of the two Centres.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION I SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8562 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 42\* (A/8408/ADD.22, A/C.5/1415)**

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1481st meeting)

*Revised estimates for section 16 (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) (A/8408/Add.24, A/C.5/1400)*

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Secretary-General's report on the revised estimates for UNIDO (A/C.5/1400), together with his note on the administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/1415) of draft resolution I submitted by the Second Committee (A/8562, para. 25). In the report the Secretary-General had proposed an additional appropriation under section 16 of \$450,000 and a consequential increase, under income section 1, of \$80,000 in income from staff assessment. In the note on the financial implications, the Secretary-General estimated that implementation of the draft resolution of the Second Committee would require an additional

appropriation in 1972 of \$458,400. An increase in staff assessment income amounting to \$13,700 was foreseen. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had submitted its reports on the implications of the draft resolution and on the revised estimates for section 16 in documents A/8408/Add.22 and A/8408/Add.24, respectively.

26. He pointed out that there was no quorum, and asked whether members would accept consideration of the estimates on a "no objection" basis.

27. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that a substantial appropriation was involved. He considered that a vote was required.

28. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand), supported by Mr. NDURURUTSE (Burundi), recalled the Chairman's statement at the previous meeting to the effect that if decisions were not taken on the questions before the Committee, the work of the General Assembly in plenary meeting would be hampered.

29. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that it was not clear how the Committee was going to proceed. Should it ignore the Advisory Committee's advice and, on the basis of the Secretary-General's note, make a formal, factual statement of the financial implications, if the General Assembly were to adopt the draft resolution of the Second Committee? For his part, he wished the financial implications to be discussed together with the advice of the Advisory Committee, so that the Fifth Committee could decide on the magnitude of the revised estimates.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that he had hoped it would be possible for the Committee to accept on a "no objection" basis the financial implications in the Secretary-General's note. He drew attention to paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.22), which would have the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly of the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Second Committee. That would be a purely factual statement. It would seem, however, that members required further elucidation of the financial implications and he therefore invited the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to comment on the financial implications of the draft resolution.

31. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in order to have an over-all picture, the Committee needed to consider the initial estimates for UNIDO, together with the revised estimates contained in document A/C.5/1400 and the corresponding report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.24).

32. The initial estimates for UNIDO under section 16 (see A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3) amounted to just over \$13 million. With regard to the revised estimates, the Advisory Committee recommended (A/8408/Add.24, para. 7) an additional appropriation of \$350,000, while in document A/8408/Add.22 the Advisory Committee recommended an additional appropriation of \$250,000 under section 16. Taken together, the two additional appropriations represented a 12 per cent increase over the 1971 appropriation.

\* United Nations Industrial Development Organization:

(a) Report of the Industrial Development Board;

(b) Report of the Special International Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

33. Commenting first on document A/8408/Add.22, he said that the financial implications arose from the Second Committee's draft resolution on the report of the Special International Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Secretary-General estimated that adoption of the draft resolution would entail additional requirements in 1972 of \$458,400 divided as indicated in paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's report. He drew attention to paragraph 3 of that report, which indicated the derivation of the various additional appropriations. The Advisory Committee had been somewhat handicapped by the imprecision of the draft resolution, which was open to different interpretations. As regards the establishment of an information clearing-house, the Advisory Committee recommended a more gradual approach than that proposed by the Secretary-General—namely, a manning table of two Professional and three local level posts, instead of the three Professional and seven local level posts—and suggested that half the costs of consultants and the whole cost of travel might be accommodated within the 1972 provisions. The Fifth Committee had discussed the question of consultants on several occasions and he considered that there was perhaps a general feeling that the over-all provision for consultants for 1972 was not ungenerous. Establishment of the high-level expert group derived from paragraph 3 of the draft resolution of the Second Committee: it was specified that the group should be "small". Yet, while the Secretary-General had suggested that perhaps 18 members might be an appropriate number, the Advisory Committee believed that if the group were to be limited to, say, 9 members, expenditure on travel and subsistence would be halved, and in addition, the group might function more effectively.

34. As for the consolidated record of the Special International Conference of UNIDO, the Advisory Committee noted that financial implications had not been submitted to the Conference before the decision to prepare the record had been taken—a decision which would appear to run counter to the General Assembly's efforts to control documentation. Furthermore, the draft resolution of the Second Committee made no reference to that record. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee felt that the preparation of the record was not justified, and recommended deletion of the proposed provision of \$80,000. When all factors were taken together, a saving of some \$200,000 could be achieved. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommended a "broad brush" approach, and approved an additional appropriation of \$250,000.

35. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that his Government had supported the inclusion of paragraph 3 in the Second Committee's draft resolution regarding the establishment of the high-level expert group, because it felt it was important to identify those activities which were critical to the rate of industrialization of the developing countries. Some delegations had expressed concern that the UNIDO programme had insufficient impact on that rate. In order to ensure the effective operation of the group, the members should be of as high a calibre as possible and they should be engaged full time for a protracted period. In addition, a small staff of short-term consultants, totally independent from UNIDO, should be assigned to the group for research and preparation of material. Such a group would have an important bearing on the future activities of UNIDO.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, if it adopted the draft resolution of the Second Committee, an additional appropriation of \$250,000 under section 16 of the budget estimates for 1972 would be required, partly offset by a \$7,000 increase in income from staff assessment. The Fifth Committee's report should also draw the Assembly's attention to paragraphs 4 to 9 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.22).

*It was so decided.*

37. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if a vote had been taken, his delegation would have voted against the additional appropriation of \$250,000.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that the views of the USSR delegation would be reflected in the Committee's report.

39. He then invited the Committee to consider the revised estimates for section 16 contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1400), and the corresponding report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.24).

40. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.24) on the revised estimates for UNIDO (A/C.5/1400). The latter reflected the assessment of additional manpower resources needed to carry out the work programme approved by the Industrial Development Board. The initial estimates had been based on the cost of continuing the 1971 level of operations into 1972. In paragraph 3 of its report, the Advisory Committee had summarized UNIDO's regular budget manpower resources to give a picture of the staff available over-all. Following a survey of UNIDO manpower at Vienna in early 1971, the Advisory Committee had concluded, in paragraph 4 of its report, that with a relatively modest increase in substantive Professional staff over the number proposed by the Secretary-General in his initial estimates, UNIDO could execute in 1972 a considerably larger programme than that for 1971. That conclusion had been based on the survey by the Administrative Management Service and discussions at UNIDO. The Advisory Committee therefore felt that the additional request for \$450,000 could be reduced by \$100,000 without detriment to the programme. Accordingly, it recommended that the provision for 1972 under section 16 should be increased by \$350,000 and that the estimate under income section 1 should be raised by \$62,000.

41. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he wished to place on record that his delegation fully agreed with the Advisory Committee's position in document A/8408/Add.22.

42. Turning to document A/8408/Add.24, he noted that the Advisory Committee had taken a somewhat more lenient position with regard to the Secretary-General's request for revised estimates in an amount of \$450,000 gross (A/C.5/1400). His delegation fully concurred in that approach and, in fact, would have liked the Advisory Committee to recommend approval of the full amount

requested by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's initial estimates had certainly been designed to allow UNIDO to increase its programme in support of the developing countries. Referring to paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, he said that his delegation regarded it as entirely appropriate for UNIDO to seek the remedy for its greater manpower requirements from the regular budget of the United Nations. He commended the Secretary-General on that approach and would support him in future. The proposals in question were positive and involved no bureaucratization. He would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations even though he would have preferred it to recommend approval of the full amount of \$450,000.

43. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendations because it strongly disapproved of the inclusion of the expenditure in question under chapters III and IV of section 16. It regarded that procedure as back-door financing which might be used in future as an excuse for the indiscriminate expansion of the UNIDO staff.

44. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/8408/Add.24.

*The Committee approved an additional amount of \$350,000 under section 16 for 1972 and an additional amount of \$62,000 under income section 1, by 58 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions.*

45. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had voted against the additional expenditure recommended in document A/8408/Add.24 because the Advisory Committee's recommendation was in contradiction with his own delegation's position of principle, as stated (1433rd meeting) in detail in its general statement on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, concerning the necessity of preventing the uncontrolled and unjustified growth of the United Nations staff.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION I SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8558 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 41 (concluded) (A/8408/ADD.23, A/C.5/1414 AND CORR.1)**

46. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) read out paragraph 5 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.23) and expressed disappointment at the Committee's recommendation that the two new posts requested by the Secretary-General for the Transfer of Technology Unit of UNCTAD should not be created. The Group of 77 attached great importance to the transfer of technology aspect of the International Development Strategy and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had strongly urged an increase in the staff of the Unit. Moreover, at the 1477th meeting, the Committee had approved an amount of \$62,500 for the establishment of a new post at the Under-Secretary-General level; it should not hesitate to approve the two far less costly posts required to deal with so important a question as the transfer of

technology. For those reasons, his delegation would support the additional appropriation of \$202,000 estimated, for that purpose by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1414 and Corr.1).

47. Drawing attention to the last sentence of paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, he asked whether the proposals to be formulated in consultations between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Executive Director of UNIDO with a view to preventing overlapping and competition between various parts of the Secretariat in work related to the transfer of technology would have financial implications. If not, his delegation strongly supported that essential co-ordination.

48. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the Advisory Committee's reports relating to sections 15 and 16 (A/8408/Add.22, para. 5 and A/8408/Add.23, para. 5) drew attention to the fact that the transfer of technology was a task in which both UNCTAD and UNIDO were involved and their work should be complementary. Consequently, the Advisory Committee had suggested a co-ordinating effort by their executive heads. The consultations which it recommended would have no financial implications.

49. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America), referring to the two additional posts requested for the Transfer of Technology Unit in UNCTAD's Division for Invisibles, said that his delegation noted that provision had been made in the 1971 initial estimates for 4 posts for that Unit but that, in fact, according to the initial estimates for 1972, 8 posts had been established. The Secretary-General had proposed the same number for 1972. Moreover, paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of document A/C.5/1414 and Corr.1 stated that the work programme approved by the Trade and Development Board for 1972 in the field of the transfer of technology would require 2 additional posts. However, the Advisory Committee had not recommended that the posts be established. Indeed, it had hinted at its concern that work on the transfer of technology in the United Nations should be kept under constant review to avoid duplication.

50. Even taking into consideration Trade and Development Board resolution 74 (X) and the draft resolution of the Second Committee on the question (A/8558, para. 18, draft resolution I), his delegation felt that a threefold increase in staff in little over a year was excessive. His delegation therefore did not support the request for two additional posts and since there would be revised estimates for section 15, on UNCTAD, his delegation would have to abstain in the vote on the financial implications as a whole.

*Mr. Sanu (Nigeria) took the Chair.*

51. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he appreciated the concern for economy underlying the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the new posts should not be created. However, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had said that, unless the posts were established, the work programme approved by the Trade and Development Board would be hampered. Since the Committee's main purpose was to enable work to be carried out, he disapproved of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

If a vote was taken on the Secretary-General's proposal that the two posts should be created, he would support it.

52. Mr. MARTINEZ (Venezuela) said that the transfer of technology was particularly important for the developing countries. He referred to paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/1414 and Corr.1 relating to the programme of work approved by the Trade and Development Board at its eleventh session and said that his delegation could not support the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/8408/Add.23) since it believed that they would be detrimental to the programme and would limit UNCTAD's possibilities. His delegation supported the statements of the representatives of Yugoslavia and Brazil.

53. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said that he understood the concern of the United States representative, but that delegations from developing countries were naturally in favour of projects that would help develop their countries. Although it recognized the merit of the Advisory Committee's efforts to suggest budgetary restraint, his delegation could not accept the suggestion that the two posts be eliminated. If a recommendation was put to the vote, his delegation would request a separate vote on paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report.

54. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that while his delegation recognized the need to rationalize staff increases in UNCTAD and UNIDO, it did not share the Advisory Committee's doubt as to the necessity for the two new posts in question. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had said that the two posts were essential if the programme of work was to be carried out and his delegation therefore could not support the recommended reductions.

55. Mr. RUIZ DE GAMBOA (Chile) said that he, too, would be in favour of a separate vote on paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report and his delegation would join those of Yugoslavia, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico and Algeria in voting against it.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would put the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to the vote first. If they were not approved, he would call for a vote on the Secretary-General's original proposal (A/C.5/1414 and Corr.1).

57. Mr. RUIZ DE GAMBOA (Chile) supported the Mexican proposal that paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report should be put to the vote separately.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that he saw no purpose in a separate vote on the paragraph; the Advisory Committee was not objecting to the additional posts but to the whole request of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. The only way to restore the \$50,000 in question would be for the Committee to adopt the Secretary-General's original proposal. He therefore invited the Committee to vote in the order he had proposed.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendations (A/8408/Add.23) were adopted by 39 votes to 24, with 6 abstentions.*

59. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Rapporteur should be requested to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt the Second Committee's draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$167,600 would be required under section 15 of the budget estimates for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

60. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in explanation of vote, said that if there had been a separate vote on chapters III, IV and X of section 15, his delegation would have voted against them.

61. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador) said that his delegation wished to place on record its disagreement with the Advisory Committee's report. It could not understand the reasons which had prompted the Advisory Committee to recommend that the two additional posts in question should not be approved when the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had stated that they were essential to the completion of the UNCTAD work programme.

62. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) suggested that the fact that a separate vote had been requested on paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report should be included in the Fifth Committee's report, together with the fact that the Chairman had ruled against that procedure.

63. The CHAIRMAN said that no purpose would have been served by such a separate vote; the procedure which he had proposed had not been formally challenged and there was therefore no reason for the addition to the report suggested by the representative of Mexico.

64. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said that his delegation would abide by the Chairman's ruling.

65. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that his delegation had voted against the Advisory Committee's recommendations because the reduction involved would affect the transfer of technology, to which his delegation attached considerable importance. It did not consider that the UNCTAD work programme should be cut back.

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

Personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8408/Add.20 and 21, A/8454, A/8483, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/1408, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1):

(b) Other personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8408/Add.20 and 21, A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/1408)

*Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems in the United Nations (concluded) (A/8454, A/8545, A/8552)*

66. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on an additional appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 under section 3 of the budget estimates for 1972 in connexion with the Bertrand report (see A/8454), as recommended by

the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/8552).

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved by 50 votes to 1, with 16 abstentions.*

67. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway), in explanation of his vote, said that although his delegation doubted whether an appropriation of \$25,000 was really justified in connexion with the report, it had voted for the proposal because it had been the Advisory Committee's recommendation. However, if the Advisory Committee had recommended that no appropriation should be made, his delegation would have supported that proposal also.

***Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) (A/8408/Add.20, A/C.5/1408)***

68. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), recalling that 1 January 1972 was the date on which paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) was to take effect, stated that it could be interpreted in two different ways. According to the Secretary-General's interpretation, service before 1 January 1972 would count towards the 10-month interval between steps; thus, the first accelerated increments would be payable as of February. In paragraph 4 of its report (A/8408/Add.20), however, the Advisory Committee pointed out that it could also be taken to mean that the accelerated increments would start only after a staff member moved to the next step. Under that alternative interpretation, the first accelerated increments would not be payable until the end of 1972. The Secretary-General had indicated (A/C.5/1408) that if his interpretation was applied, the cost for 1972 would come to \$133,600. Naturally, if the alternative interpretation were applied the cost would be less. From a budgetary point of view the Advisory Committee would favour the second alternative but it was not sure whether that would carry out the intentions of the General Assembly. Paragraph 2 of the resolution stated that confirmation of the knowledge of a second language should be the obtaining of the language proficiency certificate as awarded by the United Nations. Current recruitment practice did not call for the examination of staff whose mother tongue was one of the working languages but who were required to work in another working language. That was consistent with paragraph 1 (a) of the resolution. The Advisory Committee therefore agreed that confirmation should only be necessary to qualify for promotions from one grade to another and for accelerated increments. The Advisory Committee felt that irrespective of the interpretation given, the financial implications could be absorbed within the total amount available in each of the four budget sections affected.

69. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel) said that the introduction of the staff incentives referred to in General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) had been postponed until 1 January 1972 to enable the Secretary-General to establish language courses at all major duty stations and to make it possible for staff members to acquire, or improve their knowledge of, a second language.

70. In its report the Advisory Committee pointed out that the resolution could be interpreted differently. Paragraph 3 of the report indicated that according to the Secretary-General's interpretation, the resolution would be implemented with effect from 1 January 1972, account being taken in each case of the staff member's length of service prior to 1 January 1972 in the step of his grade, with the result that qualified staff members who would move to the next step during 1972 would do so after 10 months' service, and not 12. The financial implications of such an interpretation were estimated at \$140,000 for 1972. In paragraph 4 of its report, the Advisory Committee gave its own interpretation, namely, that, only from the date of his first incremental step after 1 January 1972 would the mechanism of paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of the resolution come into play, in other words, no staff member could move to the next step until 1 November 1972.

71. According to the Advisory Committee's interpretation, a staff member who moved to the next step in August 1972 would derive no practical benefit from the incentive until June 1973, 10 months later. To take an extreme case, a staff member who moved to the next step every 24 months, and who had reached his present step in August 1971 would not move to the next step until August 1973. Only then would his case fall within the terms of the resolution, so that he would not benefit from the promotion incentives until April 1975. From a strictly budgetary point of view, the Advisory Committee would favour the second interpretation but was not sure whether that would carry out the intention of the General Assembly.

72. In view of the references in resolution 2480 (XXIII) to the establishment of a language bonus and the need for incentives in the matter of the promotion of staff in the Professional category subject to geographical distribution, he considered that the Secretary-General's interpretation fully conformed to the spirit and letter of resolution 2480 B (XXIII), and that the postponement of the application of paragraph 1 (b) (ii) until April 1975 in certain extreme cases could scarcely be regarded as an incentive.

73. In paragraph 5 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that, for the purpose of implementing the incentive measures set out in paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2480 B (XXIII), the language proficiency certificate should in all cases be required, even of staff members whose mother tongue was an official language and who were required to work in another official language which was also a working language. For the purpose of speedier promotion, such staff members would therefore be required to pass an examination in the language in which they might have been working for over 25 years. Since their knowledge of the working language was in principle much greater than that required under paragraph 2 of the resolution, the only result would be an excessive burden of work for the Training Service.

74. Mr. PICK (Canada) said that the proposed amendment to the Staff Regulations regarding language incentives was of particular interest to Canada, which in fact had co-sponsored the text adopted as General Assembly resolution 2480 (XXIII). His delegation recognized that the amendment would constitute an extra burden for certain staff members while giving an advantage to others, but it



believed that the question of Staff Regulations must be approached from the point of view of the needs of the Organization and not the needs of any group of staff members.

75. In that connexion, his delegation wished to congratulate the Secretary-General on the rapid development of the language training programmes during the preceding three years, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1404), and looked forward to further expansion both in New York and United Nations offices abroad. Tuition-free language training in staff time provided the best possible means of protecting the interests of staff members whose mother tongue was not a working language of the United Nations and, as such, constituted the ground upon which the needs of individuals and the Organization could be reconciled.

76. His delegation had found the language training statistics contained in table 1 of the annex to the report of the Secretary-General very interesting. However, it hoped to obtain a better assessment of the over-all effect of language training programmes on the linguistic capacity of the Secretariat and would request that future reports should contain simple statistics showing the linguistic capacity of the Professional staff subject to geographical distribution, especially in the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. His delegation also noted with interest (*ibid.*, para. 7) that every effort was being made to develop special manuals and materials to suit the requirements of the Organization. His Government had had considerable success in the development of modern methods of accelerated audio-visual language instruction in English and French and would continue as in the past to provide the benefits of its research at the request of the Secretary-General.

77. Mr. NAUDY (France) said that his delegation fully supported all measures that conformed to the spirit of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII). As to the two interpretations of paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of that resolution, his delegation favoured measures that would provide real incentive to those that discourage and consequently preferred the interpretation of the Secretary-General, who had, so to speak, already made commitments to the staff members concerned. It took that position all the more willingly as the Advisory Committee considered (A/8408/Add.20, para. 6) that the financial implications could be absorbed within the total amount available in each of the four budget sections affected.

78. Mr. NAITO (Japan), commenting on the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1408) and the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.20) regarding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII), said that the Secretary-General indicated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of his report that the number of staff members who were already eligible on 1 October 1971 and would immediately benefit on 1 January 1972 totalled 612; and that up to 500 additional staff members might become eligible during 1972, making a total of some 1,100 during the first year. His delegation noted that, if that rate continued after 1972, the majority of the 2,250 staff members subject to geographical distribution would be benefiting from accelerated salary increments. That would have considerable

financial implications. More important, it could have far-reaching practical consequences for the salary system in the United Nations and the specialized agencies, namely, an increase in the base salary. His delegation hoped that those consequences would be fully borne in mind by the Committee.

79. Paragraph 1 of the Secretary-General's report stated that all staff subject to geographical distribution with adequate and confirmed knowledge of a second official language would be entitled to a more rapid passage through the steps within each grade. However, in paragraph 4 of annex I to the Staff Regulations, it was clearly stated that salary increments were subject to satisfactory service. His delegation therefore wished to ask the representative of the Secretary-General whether all staff members in possession of a language proficiency certificate would receive accelerated increments, even though their service might not be satisfactory.

80. With regard to the validity of the language proficiency certificate, it was stated in paragraph 10 of information circular ST/ADM/SER.A/1562 that staff members successful in the January 1972 examinations to whom the language proficiency certificate is awarded, may be re-examined, in compliance with staff rule 103.6(c), in January 1977 to verify their continued proficiency in the language.

81. That paragraph, if read in conjunction with the Secretary-General's report, might be interpreted to mean that staff members in possession of such a certificate would benefit from the regular and automatic accelerated increments for five years without any other requirement. His delegation therefore sought a clarification of the validity of a certificate in a second language.

82. His delegation had a further question regarding the relationship between the figure of 612 staff members referred to in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/1408 and the figures set out in table 1 B of the annex to the Secretary-General's report on staff training (A/C.5/1404). That table indicated that only 226 Professional and higher staff had obtained language proficiency certificates between December 1969 and June 1971. He asked why the figures did not tally.

83. Turning to the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.20), he said that it would appear that General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) could be interpreted to mean that the system of accelerated increments could apply, as of 1 January 1972, to qualified staff members who had already served 10 months at a particular step prior to that date. His delegation took the view that the Advisory Committee's interpretation was legally more correct, and that only staff members who had completed the minimum period of 10 months after 1 January 1972 were eligible for an accelerated increment.

84. With regard to paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, his delegation agreed with that Committee's recommendation that the language proficiency certificate should be required for purposes of accelerated salary increments even of staff members whose mother tongue was an official language and who were required to work in another official language.



85. His delegation also supported the Advisory Committee's view contained in paragraph 6 of its report regarding the absorption of the financial implications within the total amount available.

86. With regard to paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report on staff training (A/8408/Add.21), his delegation fully shared the Advisory Committee's concern over the time lost by staff members attending accelerated

language courses—estimated at 39,500 man-hours in 1972—and sincerely hoped that so much time lost would be balanced by the increased productivity that should result.

87. His delegation would follow very closely the measures taken to implement the General Assembly resolution.

*The meeting rose at 11.25 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 82

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
FIRST COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8583 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 32\* (A/C.5/1419)**

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), commenting on the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/1419) of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee (A/8583, para. 9), said that the Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's estimate of the amount required to reproduce the report referred to in the draft resolution. He wished to point out, however, that the request addressed to the Secretary-General in the draft resolution was imprecise; the report in question had appeared in two parts (A/8469 and Add.1), and it was not clear whether the intention had been to authorize reproduction of the first part only or of both parts. The Secretary-General had based his statement on the latter assumption. It was to be hoped that in future an effort would be made to be more specific in regard to requests which had financial implications.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the First Committee, an additional appropriation of \$34,400 would be required under section 11 of the budget estimates for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

AGENDA ITEM 78

**Pattern of conferences (concluded):\*\***

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (concluded):\*\*
- (b) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (concluded)\*\*

**Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the  
General Assembly (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.47/Rev.1)**

3. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Rapporteur had prepared a revised version of the draft report of the Fifth Committee on the item (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.47/Rev.1) and said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the report, as revised.

*It was so decided.*

\* Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security: report of the Secretary-General.

\*\* Resumed from the 1471st meeting.

Implementation of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies: report of the Secretary-General (concluded)\*\*\* (A/8482, A/8503, A/C.5/1363 and Add.1, A/C.5/1368, A/C.5/1375, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49/Rev.1)

**Form of presentation of the budget  
(concluded)\*\*\* (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49/Rev.1)**

4. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) suggested that the Spanish text of document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49/Rev.1 would read better if the last clause in subparagraph (b), beginning with the words "teniendo presente", was placed immediately after the numerical (ii) in that subparagraph.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would take the suggested drafting change into account in the preparation of the final report.

6. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) observed that the word "biannual" in the English text of subparagraph (b) was incorrect and should be changed to "biennial".

7. Mr. MARRON (Spain), supported by Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), pointed out that subparagraph (c) still left open the possibility that the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions might be delayed so as to comply with the request to take into account the comments and suggestions of the Economic and Social Council and its Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. It was essential that the Advisory Committee's report should be ready in time for the twenty-seventh session, and he could not support subparagraph (c) if its adoption would in any way impede progress on the report.

8. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it would indeed be difficult, if not impossible, for the Advisory Committee to prepare a report for submission to the twenty-seventh session, as envisaged in subparagraph (a), if it had to take into account the comments and suggestions of the Economic and Social Council and CPC. It might, however, be possible to submit to the General Assembly at some time during its twenty-seventh session an addendum to the Secretary-General's report, setting out the Advisory Committee's views on the comments and suggestions referred to. He hoped, however, that the wording of

\*\*\* Resumed from the 1480th meeting.

subparagraph (c) could sustain the interpretation that the Advisory Committee would be free to proceed in accordance with its established time-table and to utilize whatever information would be available to it in implementing the provisions of subparagraph (a).

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the inclusion in its report of the text contained in document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.49/Rev.1, on the understanding that subparagraph (c) should not be interpreted to mean that the Advisory Committee must wait for the comments and suggestions of the Economic and Social Council and CPC before proceeding with its work on the basis of whatever information was available.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

**Personnel questions (continued) (A/8408/Add.20 and 21, A/8454, A/8483, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/1408, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1)**

**(b) Other personnel questions (continued) (A/8408/Add.20 and 21, A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/1408)**

**Staff training (concluded)\* (A/8408/Add.21, A/C.5/1404)**

10. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that he wished to reply briefly to some of the objections that had been raised concerning the proposal to establish a United Nations staff college. It had been said that the discussions he had held with the executive heads of the specialized agencies were insufficient and that the proposals relating to the establishment of a staff college should be submitted to the legislative organs of the specialized agencies for examination and decision. He could not agree with that view, which, if consistently applied, would mean that every routine executive decision would have to be reviewed and approved by legislative organs. If that approach were adopted, no work would ever get done. As far as the proposal to set up a staff college was concerned, all that was required of the legislative organs was that they should agree in principle to the establishment of the college and provide the necessary funds. The multifarious details concerning the organization of courses, the selection of participants, the subjects to be taught and the appointment of faculty members and supporting staff could all be dealt with by the executive heads of the organizations concerned.

11. The staff college was not intended to supplant entirely the training programmes currently operated by the various agencies; its mission would be to eliminate unnecessary and uneconomical duplication of courses and to co-ordinate interagency training programmes. If the General Assembly failed to act at the current session to set up the staff college, that would simply mean that the currently overlapping programmes would continue for another year,

complicating even further the task which would ultimately face the college administration in rationalizing training procedures throughout the United Nations system.

12. The specialized agencies, with the exception of IBRD and IMF, had all been associated with the feasibility study and had all carefully considered the proposal to establish a college. Everyone he had contacted was eager to commence operations in 1972. It would indeed be regrettable if, after hearing of the unanimous support accorded to the proposal by the specialized agencies, the General Assembly should hold back and refuse to exercise the leadership expected of it.

13. While fully appreciating the straitened financial circumstances of the United Nations, he felt that it would be a mistake to delay the establishment of the college for the sake of short-term economy. The continuation of the current inefficient system would, in the long run, cost the Organization more in terms of unnecessary duplication of effort than the modest amount required to launch the college. It had been suggested that in the initial phase the college should try to operate on the \$200,000 pledged by UNDP. Unfortunately, the UNDP allocation was contingent upon a favourable decision by the General Assembly, and in any event the sum of \$200,000 would be insufficient even to make a start on the project.

14. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, while he had the highest personal regard for the Executive Director of UNITAR, he had serious doubts as to the wisdom of approving an appropriation for the proposed staff college at the current session. His delegation endorsed the idea of a staff college and considered that the costs of running it should be borne by the regular budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. He did not agree with those who maintained that the college should be financed out of voluntary contributions to UNITAR. Despite UNITAR's leading role in laying the groundwork for the college, once it was established the college would benefit the entire United Nations system; it was only fair that the system as a whole should bear the cost of supporting it. On the other hand, since the college would be of such value to the United Nations and the specialized agencies, it was very strange that no representative of the Secretariat or of the agencies had spoken in the current debate in support of the college. His delegation for one would greatly appreciate hearing the views of the Secretariat and the specialized agencies on the subject.

15. Some delegations had taken the position that the Advisory Committee had not approved of the project, and that that was why it had decided not to recommend an appropriation for it in the 1972 budget. In his view, a careful reading of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.21) did not support that interpretation; the Advisory Committee's belief that it would be premature for the General Assembly to pronounce itself on the project at the current stage was not equivalent to disapproval. Indeed, there was a genuine and considerable interest on the part of many delegations in the proposals put forward by UNITAR. The specialized agencies were also interested in the project but were perhaps not so completely committed to it as the Executive Director of UNITAR seemed to think. In that connexion, it was relevant to refer to

\* Resumed from the 1482nd meeting.

paragraph 86 of the thirty-seventh report of ACC (E/5012 (part I))<sup>1</sup> which indicated that the agencies were interested in participating “on the understanding that the courses will meet their needs as to content, cost and quality”. Needless to say, that was hardly an expression of unqualified support.

16. There were a number of questions which remained to be answered before his delegation could feel comfortable in supporting a decision to appropriate funds for the establishment of the college. For instance, it would be useful to have more specific information on the nature of the \$200,000 “contribution in kind” which the specialized agencies proposed to make towards the establishment of the college. If agency staff were to be seconded to the college, how many would be supplied by each agency and would they be in the Professional, the General Service or some other category? He had no desire to examine UNITAR’s files on the subject, which he was sure the Executive Director would be willing to make available to any interested party; rather, he felt that information of that nature should be made generally available in a document which could be circulated to all delegations. Clarification would also be appreciated as to the intended scope of the initial phase, which, at least to his delegation, was not now clear. In addition, the Fifth Committee should have more information on the plans for the second phase; in particular, it would be interesting to know what level of expenditure was anticipated for the second and succeeding years of the project. Before taking any decision which, if the project failed, might result in a loss of millions of dollars, Member States should have considerably more information than had yet been provided.

17. While he whole-heartedly supported the idea of a staff college, further planning and detailed consideration of all aspects of the project were required. His delegation would support any proposal to approve in principle at the current session the establishment of a staff college and to request further detailed information concerning its structure, organization and method of financing. If the question of approving the proposed \$200,000 appropriation for the college came to a vote, his delegation would abstain but would not cast a negative vote, as it did not wish to give the impression that it was against the project.

18. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research), replying to the remarks made by the Tanzanian representative, said that, in advocating the establishment of a United Nations staff college, he had acted not from personal motives, but purely from a desire to assist the organizations of the United Nations system in his capacity as executive head of UNITAR. He had had some experience in co-ordination matters which made him a suitable person to co-ordinate the various aspects of that interagency project.

19. He failed to see how he could convince the Tanzanian representative if the latter would not accept his oral

assurances and at the same time did not wish to see his files on the subject. He would have no objection to the Committee’s hearing the views of the representatives of the specialized agencies.

20. The ACC meeting to which the Tanzanian representative had referred had not been the last word on the matter. The meeting had merely provided guidelines and indicated conditions for the project which in his judgement had been fulfilled.

21. With regard to the financing arrangements for the proposed college, it was estimated that a total of \$400,000 would be needed to serve as a core budget, \$80,000 of which would be recoverable in fees. It was hoped that the United Nations and UNDP would each provide \$200,000. Because of their biennial budget systems, it had not been possible for the specialized agencies to give financial support to the college at the current stage.

22. He had not thought that the Committee would request such precise information concerning the staff and courses of the college. The staff would give instruction in the disciplines in which they were experienced.

23. Most of those who had read the study on the feasibility of a staff college had considered it to be of higher quality than had the Tanzanian representative. He had already explained why the project should be carried out in two stages; in view of its importance, it was essential not to be over-hasty in implementing it. It was far from unprecedented for a project to be carried out in two phases, especially in the case of an operation of such magnitude; it made good sense to begin on a tentative basis and later, in the light of the experience gained and the views of the various organizations and legislative bodies concerned, to decide whether or not to convert the project into a permanent arrangement. It was not possible for him to say what programmes would emerge at the end of the experimental period and he could not, therefore, gauge their financial cost.

24. The offer of the specialized agencies to release staff to work for the college was a not inconsiderable contribution; currently, permanent UNITAR staff represented only one quarter of the total staff engaged in the Institute’s activities. He wished to reiterate that at a meeting with the executive heads of the four major specialized agencies, held at Geneva in July 1971, he had received personal assurances of the agencies’ support for the project.

25. He had said that the experimental stage would last for two or three years and that if, in the light of experience, it was deemed inadvisable to pursue the project it would be discontinued. The money spent in the meantime would not have been wasted, since participants in the college’s courses would have received the benefit of training. Experience suggested that it was not possible to state dogmatically what courses would be taught; in UNITAR’s case, certain courses had been abandoned, others modified and new ones introduced. The Second Committee appeared satisfied with the quality of UNITAR’s work. UNITAR’s interest in the project under discussion arose simply from the fact that it had been requested to help the United Nations system to consider its training arrangements.

<sup>1</sup> Document pertaining to item 5 of the agenda of the resumed fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, issued separately (offset).

26. He had not said that to postpone the project would be tantamount to eliminating it but, rather, that postponement would make it more difficult to organize training in the United Nations system on a rational basis. Training would continue to be carried out along *ad hoc* lines and to be conducted by the various organizations of the United Nations system in their separate ways.

27. He had taken the leading role in explaining the project to the Committee because he was, perhaps, the person with the most knowledge about it and had been responsible for guiding it through ACC. If the Committee wished to hear the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, he was sure that the latter would be prepared to make a statement.

28. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said that his delegation's position concerning the proposal to establish a staff college was much the same as that of the Tanzanian delegation. It was necessary for the Committee, as a responsible organ charged with overseeing administrative and budgetary questions, to conduct its work on the basis of an orderly procedure. In fact, as the Tanzanian representative had pointed out, information was lacking on a number of points which were crucial to the Committee's consideration of the question. When, for instance, a UNDP project was submitted to the Governing Council, full details were given. The Fifth Committee could not properly consider the financial implications of the proposal before it without equally full information. He would like the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to clarify the financial implications of the proposal. In the circumstances, it was difficult to take a decision at the current stage, and although his delegation saw considerable merit in the establishment of a staff college it would support the Advisory Committee's recommendation that consideration of the matter should be deferred until the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

29. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that his delegation found the arguments in support of a staff college adduced by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/1404) and by the Executive Director of UNITAR convincing. Furthermore, Denmark's experience had demonstrated the usefulness of such a college. For those reasons, his delegation firmly believed that a staff college, to be financed out of the regular United Nations budget, should be established as soon as possible.

30. However, the Committee was being called upon to take a decision on the basis of information somewhat inferior to that normally provided. No breakdown of the \$200,000 requested for the first year in the initial stage of the college's operation had been given; nor had the Committee been provided with estimates of financial implications, even for later years in that initial stage. While the Executive Director of UNITAR had clarified the position to some extent, his delegation nevertheless felt that the Committee had not been given sufficient information to enable it to take a decision which, despite the supposedly experimental basis on which the project would be initiated, had far-reaching consequences. While it was possible that failure to act would be damaging, his delegation had regretfully reached the same conclusion as the Advisory Committee, namely, that further budgetary

information was required before the Fifth Committee could take a balanced decision.

31. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia), referring to the Secretary-General's report on staff training, said that his delegation was quite satisfied with the way in which language training, career development training and other training programmes were being carried out.

32. With regard to the proposal to establish a United Nations staff college, he said that, since the college was designed to be a permanent, or in any event a long-term undertaking, and since those who took part in the college's courses would have to be fitted into the over-all personnel programme of the United Nations, the scheme should be considered in close conjunction with the findings of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on personnel problems in the United Nations (see A/8454), which had not yet been fully studied by either the Secretary-General or the General Assembly. The conflicting views which had emerged during the Committee's discussion of the matter also indicated the need to avoid taking a hasty decision on the proposal at the current stage. On the other hand, experience had shown that there was a tendency for problems which were deferred to a later session of the General Assembly to be postponed once again.

33. It would be more encouraging if the words "consideration of" in the first sentence of paragraph 19 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.21) were replaced by the words "a decision on". Time should be allowed for UNITAR to prepare more detailed information on the project and for members of the Fifth Committee to study its implications. He supported the Tanzanian representative's view that the Committee might approve in principle the idea of establishing a staff college and commit itself to taking a decision when it was in possession of all the relevant information, including details on the project's financial implications. On the latter point, it was imperative that the Committee should act in accordance with the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

34. There was much merit in the idea of establishing a staff college. For the reasons which he had explained, however, his delegation would regretfully abstain if the proposal to establish a staff college was put to the vote.

35. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation, while not in principle opposed to the establishment of a staff college, was not convinced of the wisdom of taking a decision at the current stage. It fully endorsed the statement, in paragraph 18 of the Advisory Committee's report, that a postponement until the twenty-seventh session would provide time for UNITAR in co-operation with ACC to refine and present the proposal in a more comprehensive way and to consider in more detail several financial and administrative questions which were currently unresolved. His delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should defer consideration of the proposal until its twenty-seventh session.

36. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation fully supported the Executive Director's appeal that the question of establishing a staff college should not be postponed until the twenty-seventh session of the General

Assembly. It also supported the proposal that the United Nations should contribute \$200,000 to the staff college for the first year of its operations.

37. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) disagreed with the Tanzanian representative's comments concerning the proposed staff college, which had been a classic exercise in negative thinking.

38. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph 19 of the Advisory Committee's report.

39. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Fifth Committee, in addition to its budgetary functions, was also responsible for dealing with administrative matters. In the Soviet Union, it was customary for an organ contemplating the establishment of a staff training centre to prepare a statute for the proposed institution, setting out clearly its purposes, its structure and its functions. Such a procedure should have been followed in the case of the proposed United Nations staff college. Furthermore, the documentation submitted to the Committee indicated that provision had been made for extending the college's facilities to representatives of non-governmental organizations. Since it was not only United Nations staff members who were to benefit from the college, it should be clearly stated who was to be trained and for what purpose the college was to be established.

40. Paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report indicated that the staff college should be regarded as a UNITAR project, rather than one emanating from some other organ. Moreover, as the Tanzanian representative had observed, the report of the ACC meeting at which the matter had been discussed indicated that the participants had merely shown interest in co-operating with UNITAR; that did not amount to definite approval of the project.

41. The Secretary-General's report did not relate merely to the proposed staff college but also dealt with language training, career development training and other training programmes. His delegation wished to know what would be the relationship between those forms of training and the training to be provided at the proposed college. A link was required between the various United Nations training operations in order to ensure that duplication and overlapping were eliminated. His delegation was not satisfied that that aspect of the matter had yet received sufficient attention.

42. For those reasons, his delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should defer consideration of the proposal to establish a staff college until its twenty-seventh session.

43. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) said that the assurances given by the Executive Director of UNITAR should have gone a long way towards dispelling certain delegations' misgivings concerning the proposal. There were undoubtedly merits in the project. The Tanzanian representative's comments on the reports of the Advisory Committee and ACC were pertinent. His delegation attached importance to the question of staff training and hence to the proposal to establish a staff college. In the circumstances, however, the approach

recommended by the Advisory Committee seemed to be sound and might be the best way to deal with the question.

44. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that the Committee had been informed that a number of executive heads of specialized agencies were very enthusiastic about, and fully supported, the plan to establish a staff college; however, none of the agencies had supplied evidence to support that statement, either in writing or orally. There were two factors to be taken into consideration in dealing with the project, namely, whether it should be embarked upon and, if so, what its financial implications would be. Decisions relating to those factors could only be taken by the Fifth Committee, which was both a budgetary and an administrative organ; currently, however, the Committee did not possess sufficient data on which to base any decisions. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the first stage of the project would be considered experimental. He predicted, however, that once the project was started, even if only on an experimental basis, it would be there to stay. That opinion was borne out by the Secretary-General's statement, in paragraph 18 of his report, that he was proposing that the United Nations should contribute \$200,000 to signal the Organization's endorsement of the project. His delegation was not prepared to signal such an endorsement on the basis of the material available to the Committee. The project seemed to be one that was suitable for consideration under a programme budget system, because it would have long-term and major financial implications. In the prevailing situation and with the existing ratio between fixed-term and permanent appointments, it did not seem practical to provide costly training to persons who would remain with the Organization only for a very short time; it would be cheaper to train such persons by means of in-service courses. In the circumstances, it would seem that there was much to be gained by adopting the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

45. Miss WHALLEY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was convinced that staff training was an essential element of effective personnel policy and agreed with those delegations which had said that staff training would contribute to the higher productivity on which all members of the Committee had placed such emphasis. In the Second Committee, her delegation had welcomed the proposal to establish a staff college and had made it clear that the United Kingdom Government sympathized with the aims of the college. It had also asked for information concerning the impact the establishment of the college would have on the United Nations training programme generally. That information had not been received. Her delegation recognized that the Secretariat might have been reluctant to embark on a radical reappraisal of its training operations, since the question must now be examined in the light of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel questions. The Fifth Committee had decided to defer consideration of the Bertrand report (see A/8454) until the twenty-seventh session. That was one of the factors which had led the Advisory Committee to suggest a cautious approach and deferment of a decision on the establishment of the staff college until the college's place in the whole picture of staff training was clear.

46. All delegations were in favour of training, and no one was opposed to the college. Clearly, however, there was a

divergence of views as to whether the Committee was sufficiently informed about the full implications of the establishment of such a college to justify a decision to proceed immediately. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind that her delegation had indicated its support in principle for programme budgeting, it would seem inconsistent to proceed, on the basis of available information, to endorse the immediate establishment of a college without any knowledge of its impact on other aspects of staff training. Adoption of the Advisory Committee's recommendation would allow Member States to take an informed and over-all view of United Nations training requirements in relation to personnel policy. For those reasons, her delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

47. Mr. DE FACQ (Belgium) said that, although his delegation considered that the drafting of paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Secretary-General's report could be improved, it agreed in principle that a United Nations staff college should be established; together with a better management system, such a college might succeed in improving staff efficiency and productivity. However, his delegation would welcome more detailed information on the project, including the financial implications of the experimental phase. Because of the lack of information on the experimental phase, his delegation would be obliged to abstain from voting on the proposal.

48. Mr. DA SILVA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), referring to the questions put by the Tanzanian representative, said that the Director-General of UNESCO had participated in the consultations that had taken place on the project between the Executive Director of UNITAR and the executive heads of the specialized agencies. The Director-General recognized the need for an interagency scheme for the training of staff, particularly senior staff. The demands of the country programming approach adopted by UNDP and the General Assembly would increase the need for training. Currently, UNESCO was prepared to pay appropriate tuition fees for those of its staff members who attended courses at the college, to house courses falling within its competence and to provide staff members as lecturers for such courses. The Director-General was also prepared, if the project was approved by the General Assembly, to ask the Executive Board to authorize some transfers within the budget during the current biennium, but the existing budgetary situation made such an authorization very unlikely. The possibility of providing some financial assistance during the next biennium would, however, be studied within the framework of the proposals submitted to the General Conference.

49. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that it was not because of the shortage of funds that the Advisory Committee had recommended that consideration of the project should be deferred. In its report, the Committee recognized the importance of training and did not raise any objection in principle to the concept of a staff college. He wished to assure the Executive Director of UNITAR that the Advisory Committee in no way minimized the very real efforts he had made in connexion with the project. The Tanzanian representative had alluded to some of the matters which had made it difficult for the Advisory

Committee to reach any conclusion other than that currently before the Committee. The Executive Director of UNITAR had made it quite clear that the project was not a UNITAR project; that was a point on which the Secretary-General's report was misleading.

50. With regard to the questions put by the representative of the Netherlands, it was not easy to say what the financial implications would be. It did not seem possible to state that they would be \$200,000 for 1971 and 1972 because, if the project was not a UNITAR project, he was not sure what kind of financial and administrative entity the college would be. If the Organization's contribution was to be a grant-in-aid for which the college would not be accountable to the United Nations, the financial implications would be \$200,000. On the other hand, it appeared that the United Nations would have to pay fees for those of its staff members who attended courses at the college. It seemed rather curious that an organization which was making a financial contribution to the college should also have to pay fees. That was another of the doubts which made it difficult to answer the Netherlands representative's questions with any precision.

51. In conclusion, he said that the Advisory Committee had experienced difficulty with the ACC report (E/5012 (part I)), which did not seem to give very specific approval for the proposal. The representative of UNESCO had said that his agency could provide assistance in kind. It should be noted, however, that the governing bodies of most of the specialized agencies had met since April, when the proposal had been submitted to ACC, but so far as he was aware none of them had considered the proposal; they certainly had not approved any cash contributions to the project.

52. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the position of his delegation was similar to that of the Tanzanian and Indonesian delegations. Because it considered that the plans for the college should be refined and presented in a more comprehensive way, his delegation would have to abstain in any vote on the Secretary-General's proposal. On the other hand, it could not accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation because it was fearful of the adverse effects it might have on the future of the project. It would have to abstain from voting on that recommendation also. He therefore proposed that the Fifth Committee should approve in principle the idea of establishing a staff college and decide to defer consideration of the question until the twenty-seventh session, when it would study, in particular, the points raised by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 18 and 19 of its report (A/8408/Add.21).

53. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico), Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran), Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) and Mr. STOTTMYER (United States of America) endorsed that proposal.

54. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would be very difficult for his delegation to endorse the Brazilian proposal because it had no idea what the purposes of the staff college would be or how it would operate.

55. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that, because it wished to reserve its position until such time as the question came



before the Committee again, his delegation would be unable to support the Brazilian proposal.

56. Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria), supported by Mr. NAUDY (France) and Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia), proposed that the Fifth Committee should adopt the proposal made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his report (A/C.5/1404).

57. Mr. ESFANDIARY (Iran) reminded members that the representative of Indonesia had proposed an amendment to paragraph 19 of the Advisory Committee's report. It would seem that that amendment had now been formalized by the representative of Brazil. He suggested that the Committee should vote first on the Indonesian and Brazilian proposals and then on the recommendations in the Advisory Committee's report.

58. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) said that, in view of the Brazilian proposal, he withdrew his amendment to paragraph 19 of the Advisory Committee's report.

59. Mr. MARRON (Spain) asked whether the Committee should not receive a report on the financial implications of the Brazilian proposal.

60. By speaking in favour of staff training, his delegation had not wished to imply that the Secretariat should cease recruiting as efficient staff members as possible. The purpose of training should be to enable staff members to retain and even enhance their skills. It would seem that the question should be studied in greater detail, and his delegation therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

61. The CHAIRMAN explained that no financial implications were involved in the Brazilian proposal, because the Advisory Committee would not supply the further details required until the twenty-seventh session.

62. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), supported by Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia), suggested that the Committee should vote first on the proposal in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report.

63. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that, according to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

amendments should be voted on first. His proposal was an amendment to the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The Committee should therefore vote first on that proposal, then on the Advisory Committee's recommendations and finally on the Secretary-General's proposal.

64. Following a procedural discussion in which Mr. TARDOS (Hungary), Mr. DE FACQ (Belgium), Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador), Mr. NAUDY (France), Mr. HOLLIST (Nigeria) and Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should vote first on the proposal put forward by the delegations of Nigeria, France and Ethiopia to restore the amount of \$200,000 to the appropriation for staff training, in respect of the requirements of the proposed United Nations staff college.

*It was so decided.*

*The proposal was rejected by 33 votes to 31, with 11 abstentions.*

65. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Brazilian representative's proposal.

*The proposal was adopted by 52 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.*

66. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on an additional appropriation of \$88,350 for 1972 consisting of \$70,350 under section 4, chapter VI, \$8,000 under section 7 and \$10,000 under section 16.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.21, para. 20) for the additional appropriation was approved by 74 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

67. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the question of study leave mentioned in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report, said that in the opinion of his delegation such leave should coincide with annual leave.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*



Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

AGENDA ITEM 84

Personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8408/Add.20 and 21, A/8454, A/8483, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/1408, A/C.5/L.1061 and Add.1):

(b) Other personnel questions (*continued*) (A/8408/Add.20 and 21, A/8454, A/8545, A/8552, A/8565, A/C.5/1371, A/C.5/1398 and Add.1, A/C.5/1404, A/C.5/1408)

*Implementation of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) (concluded)\* (A/8408/Add.20, A/C.5/1408)*

1. Mr. GHERAB (Director of Personnel) said that he wished to answer the questions asked by the Japanese representative at the 1483rd meeting. As to whether or not the introduction of the incentive measures in General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) conflicted with rule 103.8, paragraph (a), of the Staff Rules, which made promotion subject to satisfactory service, the answer was simple. It was a basic principle that all promotion should be subject to satisfactory service. For that reason, the accelerated promotion system laid down in resolution 2480 B (XXIII) must operate in the light of that general principle; thus, only those who performed their functions satisfactorily were eligible for it. The same proviso was to be found in annex I, paragraph 4, of the Staff Regulations. As to the Japanese representative's second question, relating to paragraph 10 of Information Circular ST/ADM/SER.A/1562 issued by the Director of Personnel and rule 103.6 of the Staff Rules, concerning the language allowance, the existing provisions, which included annex I, paragraph 8, of the Staff Regulations, related only to staff in the General Service category; no system of incentives had as yet been introduced for staff in the Professional category.

2. The Japanese representative had queried a third point, namely, an apparent discrepancy between the figure of 612 for staff members eligible for benefits in 1972 under resolution 2480 B (XXIII), and the figure of 226 for staff members who were entitled to those benefits because they had been successful in the language proficiency examinations from 1969 to 1971. The difference was due to the fact that, as resolution 2480 B (XXIII) had been adopted in 1968, the first figures were for 1969; however, some Professionals had already been successful in the language proficiency examinations prior to the adoption of that resolution. In addition, many Professionals working in one

of the official languages had another official language as their mother tongue. That was why the figure was 612.

3. Lastly, the Japanese representative had expressed concern at the number of working hours lost by staff attending language courses at Headquarters, which appeared to be high; but the figure of 39,500 man-hours he had mentioned represented only a small fraction of the total time that the students attending those courses spent on study in their spare time, since the courses covered a great deal of ground. Only 10 per cent of staff members were following the accelerated language courses in working hours, and they could do so only with prior authorization from their superior, who did not give it unless the person concerned was in need of language training. Furthermore, the morning courses began half an hour before the beginning of the normal working day, so that a third of the time spent on those courses was not taken from working hours.

4. Mr. NAITO (Japan) thanked the Director of Personnel for the information he had given, which was most satisfactory.

5. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that it was clear from the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1408) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8408/Add.20) that many staff members had been following the language courses, which was a very heartening result of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII). He expressed the hope that the results would continue to be just as satisfactory in the future. He had some doubts about the two interpretations of that resolution given in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Advisory Committee's report. Since he had heard the Director of Personnel's explanations, he was inclined to favour the French representative's view (1483rd meeting) that the Secretary-General's interpretation was to be preferred. He concurred in the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the language proficiency certificate should be required for the purpose of implementing the resolution. He was happy to note the Advisory Committee's opinion that the financial implications of the implementation of the resolution could be absorbed within the total amount available in each of the four sections affected.

6. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Secretary-General's interpretation of resolution 2480 B (XXIII), which was given also in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report, was the right one. The measures laid down in that resolution would become operative on 1 January 1972. In paragraph 4 of its report, the Advisory Committee gave another interpretation, which was not in harmony with the General Assembly's intentions. Referring to paragraph 5 of that report, he said that he had no objection to the language proficiency certificate

\* Resumed from the 1483rd meeting.

being required for the purpose of implementing the incentive measures laid down in the resolution, but he thought that that proof of linguistic capacity should be required for the second language also, as provided in the same resolution. By and large, there was very little difference between the Soviet Union delegation's point of view and that of the Advisory Committee; that was true, *inter alia*, of the view expressed by that Committee in paragraph 6 of its report, which he would support.

7. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on how General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) was to be interpreted. One interpretation was given in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report; but the Advisory Committee itself favoured the second alternative, set out in paragraph 4, as it stated in the last sentence of that paragraph. However, the Advisory Committee was not sure that the latter interpretation was in harmony with the General Assembly's intention.

8. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the financial implications of the implementation of resolution 2480 B (XXIII) would be very small in 1972 if the Advisory Committee's second interpretation was adopted. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee was not sure that that was what the General Assembly had had in mind, and it was for the Fifth Committee to take a decision on that point.

9. Mr. NAITO (Japan), supported by Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania), proposed that the question should be put to the vote.

*The Committee approved the interpretation of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII) suggested by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 4 of its report (A/8408/Add.20) by 33 votes to 20, with 14 abstentions.*

***Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations (concluded)\* (A/C.5/1398)***

10. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Fifth Committee approved the Secretary-General's proposal as contained in paragraph 4 of his note (A/C.5/1398) that, in order to bring the regulations into line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2480 B (XXIII), paragraph 4 of annex I, of the Staff Regulations should be amended with effect from 1 January 1972.

*It was so decided.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)\*\***  
(A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-26, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1,

A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381-1384, A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/1400, A/C.5/1405-1408, A/C.5/1417, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, 13, 14, 16, 22 and 25, E/5038)

***Electronic data processing in the United Nations family of organizations (concluded)\*\* (A/8408/Add.16, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1)***

11. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the questions asked by the representative of Brazil at the 1483rd meeting, said that, for easy reference, the income from payments for computer services provided by the New York Computing Centre could be shown separately in the budget if the Committee so wished. In paragraph 3.3 of income section 3 in the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3), the initial estimate for 1972 was given as \$310,000. In the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates (A/C.5/1417 and Corr.1) the figure was reduced to \$125,000 for the reasons given in paragraph 50 of that document.

12. As to whether the income from computer services provided by the New York Computing Centre would bring in a profit, he recalled that the Centre had three basic types of customer. First, there were the international organizations of the United Nations family, such as UNDP and UNICEF, which were charged a flat yearly rate for a combination of services equal to the prorated actual machine costs in addition to estimated personnel costs. Services to UNDP would decline as a result of its transferring work to the Geneva Centre. The second category of customers comprised Governments, which were charged an amount equal to the prorated actual machine costs—about \$80 an hour of machine-time, estimated personnel costs plus overheads—\$50 an hour. The third category of customers comprised other institutions and private organizations, which paid \$80 an hour of machine-time and \$100 an hour for personnel costs and overheads, plus a factor which brought United Nations charges into line with the charges for similar services obtained from data processing centres. The United Nations provided electronic data processing services only when the user wanted access to economic and social data that were easily available in published United Nations reports and documents. The users of the New York Computing Centre in 1971 had been the United States Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, the United States Department of State, the Japan Statistical Standards Bureau, the Canadian Department of Industry, the Centre National du Commerce, Paris, the Permanent Missions of Iraq and Kuwait to the United Nations, the United Kingdom Board of Trade, the Australian Department of Trade and Industry, several state and private universities, UNDP, UNICEF and IBRD.

13. Replying to the questions put by the representative of the Soviet Union at the 1483rd meeting, he said that no document showed work done at the Headquarters Computer Centre in more detail than appendix 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1). The information requested by the representative of the Soviet Union currently was not easily obtainable, and it was to

\* Resumed from the 1480th meeting.

\*\* Resumed from the 1483rd meeting.

remedy that situation that the Secretary-General had requested the P-4 post referred to in paragraph 15 (d) of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8404/Add.16).

14. The question concerning the use made of the New York computer in 1971 could best be answered in terms of "shifts". In New York, a shift of computer-time, for purposes of rental charges, was normally 176 hours a month; thus, with two shifts the computer-time used was about 350 hours. At Geneva, a shift was 180 hours per month, so that in 1971 use of one and a half shifts in Geneva equalled 270 hours of computer-time per month.

15. As to the geographical distribution of the New York and Geneva Computing Centres' Professional staff, composition of the staff of the Geneva Centre was: Canada, 1; France, 2; Lebanon, 1; New Zealand, 1; United Kingdom, 4; United States, 1; Federal Republic of Germany, 1. The composition of the New York Centre's staff was: France, 1; India, 2; Philippines, 6; United Kingdom, 2; United States, 11.

16. Replying to questions asked by the representative of Spain (1483rd meeting), he said that since a degree of stability had been reached in terms of the type of equipment likely to be used over the next few years, the Secretariat would give the greatest attention to the possibility of purchasing rather than renting equipment. That was one of the duties envisaged for the Director of the proposed Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Office mentioned in appendix 6 of the Secretary-General's report.

17. Lastly, turning to the question put by the representative of France (*ibid.*), who had asked what might be the consequences of the move to Geneva of one or two of the major users of the New York Centre's computers, he said that such a move might result in a reduction in rental charges in New York due to a decrease in the size of the computer, or in the number of shifts, or both. It was unlikely, however, that the reduction in rental charges would be as great as that which would be achieved in 1972 as a result of the transfer, in 1971, of part of the Statistical Office to Geneva.

18. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management for the answers he had given to his delegation's questions. The position of the Soviet Union on the over-all question of electronic data processing was that the increase in staff for the New York Computing Centre, including the Accounts Division and the Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Office, requested by the Secretary-General in paragraph 60 of his report and the increased appropriation requested in paragraph 62 were not justified, since 50 per cent of the work of the New York Centre had been transferred to Geneva in 1971, when ICC had been established, and the New York Centre had kept 70 per cent of the staff originally intended to do the full workload. It would seem therefore that the New York Centre had an adequate staff reserve to cope with its current work, even allowing for some increase in its activities. When the Fifth Committee had considered the question of the International Computing Centre at the twenty-fifth session, it had decided unanimously that

increased use of electronic data techniques would be justified only if the consequential costs were not unreasonable and if there was an increase in the Organization's earnings. In paragraph 275 of its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, the Advisory Committee stressed the need for proper discipline in computerizing operations as otherwise computer costs could become disproportionate to the benefit of the Organization. There was no justification for an Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Office with seven new posts in New York when the work done in New York had been reduced by half and the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities was available at Geneva.

19. It also appeared from the explanations given by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management that the New York Centre was mainly used, not in the interest of the United Nations system of organizations but in that of the various countries which used its services and whose nationals formed part of the Centre's staff. The Professional staff of the Centre was composed of nationals of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Canada, and ministries or organizations in those countries were the main users of the Centre's facilities. Considering that income from the use of the Centre had amounted to \$310,000 in 1971 and that the rate for one hour of computer-time was \$130, it was obvious that 2,000 of the Centre's working hours had been spent on organizations outside the United Nations system. Since the Centre cost the United Nations \$2,131,200 and since the income the Organization derived from it was little more than 10 per cent of that amount, his delegation, which regarded such a situation as abnormal, would vote against the additional appropriations requested by the Secretary-General until it was in possession of a detailed work programme proving that the Centre was really used in the interests of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations family and did not simply service private organizations.

20. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) asked if income from services to the Centre's users merely covered the Organization's costs or if the Organization made a profit by hiring out its facilities.

21. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) explained for the benefit of the representative of the Soviet Union that, as he had said before, universities were the only "private" sources using the Centre's facilities. Referring to the different rental rates, that were applied, depending on the user, for use of the Centre's facilities, he said that in the rate applied to institutional and private sources the amount added to bring United Nations rates into line with those of other electronic data processing service centres represented a profit for the Organization.

22. Mr. BROWN (Australia) said that as the United Nations huge data banks had been established partly with the help of Governments, it was perfectly normal that Governments should have access to them.

23. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations on electronic data processing in the United Nations family of organiza-

tions set out in its report (A/8408/Add.16), the financial implications of which were indicated in paragraphs 27 and 28 of that report.

*The recommendations of the Advisory Committee that additional appropriations in a total amount of \$356,400 should be allocated under the budget sections indicated in its report (A/8408/Add.16) were approved by 57 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.*

24. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed, at the suggestion of the representative of Brazil, to include in its report the text of paragraph 45 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2), in which the Advisory Committee urged the specialized agencies to review their policies with respect to the International Computing Centre.

*It was so decided.*

### AGENDA ITEM 85

#### Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/8409, A/8598)

25. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/8598), said that the primary purpose of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board's recommendations in its report (A/8409) to the General Assembly for the amendment of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund was to improve benefits payable to participants. The five amendments were set out in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report, the two most important appearing in subparagraphs (a) and (c). The first, the cost of which in actuarial terms would be about \$56.8 million, consisted in computing final average remuneration not from the average of the last five years of contributory service but from the best three of the last five years. The other one, the cost of which in actuarial terms would be about \$15.5 million, consisted in lowering the reduction factor applied to early-retirement pensions from approximately 6 per cent per annum to 2 per cent where the participant had 25 years of contributory service to his credit. The three other amendments, in subparagraphs (b), (d) and (e) were of minor importance.

26. In paragraph 6 of its report the Advisory Committee stated that it had been assured that when making its recommendations the Board had borne in mind the systems of benefits payable under the pension schemes of the civil services of the countries where the member organizations of the Fund had their headquarters. It welcomed that assurance as it was of the opinion that there should be no automatic assumption that increases in the Fund's resources must be translated into improved benefits. Before deciding on any improvement, it was necessary to determine, on the one hand, whether the Fund's resources were sufficient and, on the other, whether the improvement was justified in the light of the over-all pattern of benefits payable under national schemes. In paragraphs 7 and 8 of its report the Advisory Committee noted that an actuarial valuation of the Fund had revealed that it had sufficient financial

resources in hand to support the proposed benefit improvements, that approval of the Board's recommendations would not prejudice the Fund's financial self-sufficiency or impinge in any way upon the budgets of the member organizations, and that the Fund would have an adequate safety margin. In paragraph 9, the Advisory Committee, after noting that the Board had considered the impact on pensioners resident in countries whose currencies had been revalued in terms of the dollar and had decided to study further the revaluation problems of certain currencies before proposing any action to the General Assembly, expressed the opinion that it should be clearly understood that the implementation of any proposals which might emerge from that study would be dependent upon the Fund being able to support them without any subvention from the regular budgets of the United Nations or of the other participating organizations.

27. In paragraph 10 the Advisory Committee stated that it had no objection to the Board's proposed amendments of the Regulations of the Fund. It also approved, in paragraph 11, the Board's recommendation concerning the means for deriving the index on the basis of which the Fund applied the cost-of-living supplements to benefits in payment. In paragraphs 12 to 18 concerning administrative expenses, the Advisory Committee noted that the considerable increase in investment costs was mainly due to the establishment of seven new posts, noted a substantial drop in expenses for consultants, and approved the Board's estimate of administrative expenses for 1972 and the supplementary estimate for 1971. The Advisory Committee's observations, in paragraphs 19 to 23, on the report of the Board of Auditors called for no comment. However, he pointed out that the Board had decided to seek agreement with the United Nations Board of Auditors whereby the latter would secure whatever specialized professional advice or assistance it might need for the purpose of conducting the audit. The agreement, which would clearly spell out the scope and manner in which the audit would be performed for the future, would be worked out in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

28. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway), speaking as a participant in the sixteenth session of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board representing the General Assembly, drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 of the Board's report, which clearly demonstrated the complexity of the question of how to give adequate representation to 11 member organizations of varying sizes and at the same time to three groups within each organization, namely, governing bodies, executive heads and participants. The question became even more complicated if an attempt was made to establish a claim for yet another category—retired participants or pensioners—to be represented. Without prejudicing the findings of the study to be carried out by the Fund's secretariat, he thought it would be more rational to emphasize a certain restriction of the number of Board members and continuity of representation rather than full and direct representation of all three groups within all the organizations.

29. Referring to the agreement that the Board had decided to seek with the Board of Auditors within the current terms of article 14 (b) of the Regulations and Rules of the Fund, which would clearly spell out the scope and manner in

which the audit would be performed for the future, he pointed out that the General Assembly's interest would be taken into account through the provision, in paragraph 19 of the Board's report, that the agreement should be worked out in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

30. With regard to paragraphs 20 to 26 of the report, he said that all questions related to investment policy and management of the Fund's investment portfolio had been thoroughly examined by the Board. He associated himself with the Board in expressing his appreciation to the Secretary-General and his representative on the Board, the Deputy Controller, Mr. Ziehl, for their constant efforts to improve the management of the portfolio.

31. Turning to the recommended improvements in the Fund's benefit system, he said that the Fifth Committee should ensure that the member organizations conformed as far as they could to the standards of good employers in improving pension benefits. On the other hand, as was pointed out in the report, the improved benefits proposed were costly and should be weighed against their financial implications and the available resources. The most important and costly recommendation, that the formula which determined the final average remuneration should be changed, would cost some \$56.8 million. Changing the index used as a basis for applying cost-of-living supplements to benefits in payment would cost some \$1.3 million, and the proposal to lower the reduction factor applied to early-retirement pensions from 6 per cent to 2 per cent would consume about \$15.5 million. Altogether the improvements would consume some \$73.6 million, leaving a safety margin of \$26.4 million. It might be questioned whether that really was a comfortable margin. However, on the basis of certain considerations outlined in the report and the comments of the consulting actuary, the Board had concluded, in paragraph 32 of its report, that the Fund's resources were sufficient to finance those improvements without danger to its financial self-sufficiency. In conclusion, he said that his delegation was prepared to endorse the Board's report and its recommendations.

32. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) said that he was pleased to find that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund appeared to be in a sound financial state and was currently in a position to finance several improvements in benefits recommended by the Board. One of the two major improvements, altering the basis for computing final average remuneration, was in line with the practice in many national pension schemes, and his delegation supported it. The second, relating to lowering the reduction factor applied to early-retirement pensions from approximately 6 per cent per annum to 2 per cent where the participant had 25 years of contributory service to his credit, was designed to facilitate early retirement; his delegation was prepared to support it also. However, he suggested that the matter be reviewed within a few years to ascertain whether or not the new formula did, in fact, result in an increase in the rate of early retirement. His delegation also supported the two minor improvements to be found in paragraph 34 of the Board's report.

33. Although it supported the improvements proposed in 1971, his delegation believed that the Board should

continue to be cautious in recommending improvements in the benefit system and should ensure that there was always an adequate margin of safety and that the Fund's assets were not valued too optimistically. Furthermore, his delegation believed that the existence of surpluses did not automatically call for improvements in the benefits payable by the Fund; they had to be justified. It had noted the increase in the administrative expenses of the Fund, but found that the explanations given for such increases were generally satisfactory. It was pleased to note that the guideline recommended by the actuaries for determining administrative costs and holding those within 0.14 per cent of the total pensionable remuneration had been maintained. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution and for the amendments to the Regulations and Rules of the Fund proposed by the Board in annex IV to its report.

34. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted from paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8598) that it had been assured that the Board, when making its recommendations, had borne in mind the systems of benefits payable under the pension schemes of the civil services of the countries where the member organizations of the Fund had their headquarters. He welcomed that assurance, but he wondered, nevertheless, if the Advisory Committee had received specific information on those schemes and, if so, whether it had had an opportunity to study the information. In view of the fact that the question of pensions was related to that of salaries, he said he would like to have comparative data on the benefit systems in effect in countries where member organizations of the Fund had their headquarters. He would also like to know what the relation was between the contribution of staff members and that of Governments to national pension schemes. The Committee should decide whether or not the Board's recommendations were acceptable on the basis of a comparison between the United Nations pension scheme and national pension schemes or those of the member organizations of the Fund. Lastly, he asked if the Board and the Secretary-General had consulted the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System or ICSAB.

35. Mr. LIVERAN (Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board) said that, when discussing the proposals for improved benefits, the Pension Board had had before it information on the pension schemes of the national civil services of a number of Member States. That information had also been provided to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Pension matters were extremely technical in nature—even more technical than salary questions. Salary experts themselves recognized that they were not expert in pension matters. Not only was the question of pensions itself complex, but matters relating to pensions in international organizations were also complicated. The relevant data—which, incidentally, were not at all secret and could be consulted by anyone who so desired—had been supplied to the organs concerned.

36. In connexion with the comparative data requested by the Soviet representative, he said that the question of comparability between the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the pension funds of national civil services had already been discussed on many occasions. It

was not possible to make valid comparisons between a fully funded system such as the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, in which the financial resources required to cover all obligations were always placed in reserve at the time when the obligation was assumed, and non-funded pension systems in which none or only part of the necessary resources were placed in reserve. Contributions to a funded scheme must necessarily cover all possible future obligations. Most pension systems of national civil services were not funded schemes but were financed from the national budget, or in other words by the taxpayers. The United Nations did not of course have any authority to impose taxation and for that reason, even if the relevant data were available, it was not possible to make a valid comparison between the staff pension system of the United Nations and that of national civil services. Indeed, that fact had been recognized by the 1958 Expert Group on the Comprehensive Review of the Pension Fund. Furthermore, Governments were generally not prepared to give information concerning the level of their contributions to civil service pension funds. Participants' contributions varied between 5 and 10 per cent of salary. When, on the recommendation of an expert group it had appointed, the General Assembly had originally established contributions at 7 per cent for United Nations staff members and 14 per cent for organizations members of the Joint Staff Pension Fund—or a total of 21 per cent in respect of any staff member holding an appointment of not less than one year—the level of benefits provided by the Fund had been considerably lower than it currently was. The situation with regard to contributions had also changed: the actual total contribution in respect of staff members holding appointments of less than five years was no longer 21 per cent but 14 per cent, since half the member organizations' contributions, or 7 per cent, was refunded to them under article 26 of the Regulations and Rules of the Fund. The Joint Staff Pension Board showed a great sense of responsibility and it should be emphasized that the heads of secretariats and the representatives of the legislative bodies constituted a two-thirds majority in the Board, while participants in the Fund, who were the persons most directly concerned, accounted for only one third of its membership.

37. With regard to the United States representative's question concerning early retirement, he said that the Board had requested member organizations to supply it, as from 1 January 1972, with precise data on the implementation of the new provisions.

38. Replying to the Soviet representative, he said that ICSAB had been consulted on pensions; ICSAB had acknowledged its lack of expertise in pension matters and had referred the question back to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. In any event, nothing had been done which was not in keeping with ICSAB's ideas. While there was certainly a link between the work of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and the Fund inasmuch as the Special Committee's decisions on salaries would obviously have considerable implications for the pension system, the converse was not true. As the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had stated, it would not be sensible for the Special Committee to duplicate the work of other bodies. It should also be recalled that the 1956 Salary Review Committee had

declared itself unable to deal with pension matters<sup>1</sup> and that for that reason the General Assembly had in 1958 established the Expert Group on the Comprehensive Review of the Pension Fund to deal exclusively with the pension system, a group whose work and experience had been extremely useful. In any event, the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System had been kept informed of the work of the Pension Board. The question of the Soviet representative, who had asked whether there was close co-ordination between all organs dealing with salary matters, could therefore be answered in the affirmative.

39. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Secretary of the Pension Board for the detailed information which he had given the Committee. However, it was clear from the Secretary's statement that the Board had not consulted any of the United Nations organs dealing with questions relating to the international civil service about the proposed changes. If the information requested was not secret, it should be made available to members of the Committee. The Fifth Committee had been presented with proposals which would make substantial changes in the pension system, yet it had not even been thought necessary to enlist the services of the Expert Group in order to help the Fifth Committee to make informed decisions. The Committee could not merely rely on the views of the Pension Board on the matter. He would particularly like to be given information on the level of benefits paid by national administrations in countries where United Nations organizations had their headquarters in order to be able to compare them with the benefits paid by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. He would also like to have comparative data on the contributions made by Governments to the staff pension funds of their national civil services. Without that information, the Fifth Committee would not be in a position to take a sound decision on the proposed changes.

40. Mr. LIVERAN (Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board) re-emphasized the fact that there had been co-ordination between the Pension Board and the organs dealing with the salaries of international civil servants. Data relating to the pension schemes of national administrations could not be used for purposes of general comparison with data relating to United Nations organizations; furthermore, all the data which could possibly be obtained had been supplied to the organizations concerned.

41. With regard to the Soviet representative's further question concerning the level of benefits paid by the pension funds of national administrations, he said that the Pension Board had no data on that subject. He recalled that the 1958 Expert Group had been an *ad hoc* body established by the General Assembly, which had entrusted it with a specific and limited task; the Group had completed its work between 1958 and 1960 and had then been dissolved. The organ currently responsible for administering the Pension Fund was the Pension Board, and the Fifth Committee had expressed its confidence in the Board by electing its own representatives to it. If the Fifth Committee believed that the Pension Board was no longer

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Annexes*, document A/3209 (separate fascicle), para. 176.



adequate for the purpose, it was perfectly at liberty to replace it by some other body.

42. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was essential for the Committee to be provided with more detailed data. If there was no comparable data, it should be supplied with non-comparable data, which would still enable it to have some idea of the situation. In particular, he wished to know the rate of contribution of civil servants to the various pension schemes of national civil services in countries where member organizations of the Fund had their headquarters.

43. In view of the fact that the 1958 Expert Group no longer existed, as the Secretary of the Pension Board had just explained, the Fifth Committee should consider the question in great detail, particularly as the Organization itself had to make contributions amounting to 14 per cent of total salaries. It had only the data submitted to it by the Pension Board on which to base the decisions which it was to take. In particular, it was essential to know whether consultations had been held with other bodies. He, himself a member of ICSAB, had not been particularly aware, although the Secretary of the Pension Board had spoken of co-ordination, that such co-ordination had actually been carried out, at any rate during the preceding three years.

44. The Fifth Committee should consider the possibility of creating a new committee to study the question of pensions in detail to enable it to reach conclusions and take decisions. He would in any case appreciate it if the Board provided the Committee with the information he had requested.

45. Mr. LIVERAN (Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board) informed the Soviet representative that the contributions paid by national civil servants in countries where the member organizations of the Fund had their headquarters were: Austria, 5 per cent; Canada, 6.5 per cent for male and 5 per cent for female civil servants; France, 6 per cent; Italy, 6 per cent; Mexico, where there was a large regional bureau, 6 per cent; United Kingdom, nil; United States, 7 per cent.

46. Mr. ZIEHL (Deputy Controller) said that the Soviet representative had raised some extremely interesting questions. As representative of the Secretary-General at the meetings of the Pension Board, the very same points had occurred to him in connexion with the consideration of the proposals before the Committee. He stressed, however, that the Regulations of the Fund made it quite clear that the Board, which was a tripartite body, was fully empowered to keep such matters under constant review and to make any recommendations it deemed necessary.

47. He pointed out, moreover, that the Secretary-General was particularly concerned with matters affecting the Joint Staff Pension Fund because he felt he had special responsibilities since pensions involved not only the staff of the United Nations but the staffs of all other United Nations agencies as well. The Secretary-General had therefore asked his representative to the Board to study those questions very carefully and to satisfy himself that any proposals put forward were in the interests of most participants in the Fund.

48. He drew the attention of the Soviet representative to paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8598), which stated that the Board had adopted its recommendations unanimously after having considered numerous suggestions. Many suggestions were in fact considerably more far-reaching than those that were finally adopted. In the United States, for example, a pension could be as high as 82 to 84 per cent of the average remuneration during the three last years of service. In the view of the Secretary-General, the changes being proposed at the current session referred only to details and could not be regarded as a revision of the pension scheme. Moreover, the Fund's resources were sufficient to finance those improvements whereas, in many countries, the Government's share of expenses was very high: the Government of the United Kingdom, whose civil servants did not make any contribution, actually bore all the expenses. The Secretary-General believed that the Board's proposals had been studied with great care and were both the most feasible, financially speaking, and the most advantageous for the majority of participants. Were the scheme to be completely revised, the demands that would be made would certainly go far beyond what was possible so long as total contributions amounted to only 21 per cent of salaries.

49. Though he recognized that the question was highly complex and that the time at the Committee's disposal was limited, he was sure that the Board would make every effort to supply the Soviet representative with the detailed information he had requested.

50. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed regret at not having been able to attend the meetings of the Board, at which those matters had been taken up. Since no Soviet citizen had a seat on the Board, it was very difficult for him to know what was going on. He had no doubt that numerous suggestions had been made to improve the pension scheme, since the staff always hoped for higher salaries and benefits, but the Organization must act sensibly and try to avoid an unduly wide gap between the United Nations pension scheme and that of national civil services, particularly in developing countries.

51. He thanked the Secretary of the Board for the percentages he had given but would also like to know the percentages of employers' contributions. He asked the representative of the Secretary-General kindly to arrange for the relevant data to be communicated to the Committee.

52. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) expressed the hope that the Committee would not spend too much time on the question. The Joint Staff Pension Board had been set up in accordance with guidelines approved by the General Assembly to supervise the activities of the Fund. The General Assembly designated its own representatives to the Board, and having served as a representative of the Assembly on the Board, he considered that the recommendations of the Board adequately protected the interests of the Assembly. The Assembly had requested the Board to study pension questions in depth, which the Fifth Committee was not in a position to do. If the Committee wanted to undertake such an in-depth study itself, it was hard to see what purpose the Board served; such an attitude could only be justified if the Committee had specific

reasons to question the grounds on which the Board had based its proposals.

53. Mr. LIVERAN (Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board), recalling the reservations he had made in a previous statement, said that he could indicate the percentage of contributions paid by the employer under the pension schemes of national civil services in countries where member organizations of the Fund had their headquarters. In Canada, the employer's contribution was the same as that of the employee, 6.5 per cent for male and 5 per cent for female civil servants; in France, it was 14.5 per cent; for Italy, no figures were available; in the United Kingdom, the funds were provided out of tax revenues; in the United States, the employer contributed the difference between the total cost and the 7 per cent contributions of civil servants.

54. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that, as a rule, the employer's contribution in his country was twice that of the employee, whether the contribution was for social security, various insurance schemes, pensions or any other purpose.

55. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that no reference had been made to Switzerland where several organizations had their headquarters. He would like to know the level of contributions in that country.

56. Mr. LIVERAN (Secretary of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board) said that he had endeavoured to obtain that information but had not been successful.

*The meeting rose at 7.20 a.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8596 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 48\* (A/C.5/1421)**

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had noted the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1421) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee (A/8596, para. 11), and did not quarrel with his estimates of the costs involved. However, having noted that the Secretary-General was prepared to provide the \$16,000 required for consultant services and secretarial staff from within the total credits available to him in 1972, the Advisory Committee considered that, with a little extra effort, he should also be able to absorb the \$7,000 that would be required for the travel and subsistence expenses of the five experts he was to designate. The Committee had therefore concluded that if the General Assembly were to adopt the draft resolution, no additional appropriations would be required in 1972.

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the General Assembly should be informed that, should it adopt the Second Committee's draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required.

*It was so decided.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF DRAFT RESOLUTION I SUBMITTED BY THE  
THIRD COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8589 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 49\*\* (A/C.5/1420)**

3. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had examined the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1420) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Third Committee in its report (A/8589, para. 33), and had no objection to the related costs indicated in paragraph 4. It considered that the total estimate of \$37,000 might be excessive but, in view of the foot-notes in document

\* Question of the establishment of an international university: report of the Secretary-General.

\*\* Respect for human rights in armed conflicts:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General;

(b) Protection of journalists engaged in dangerous missions in areas of armed conflict: report of the Secretary-General.

A/C.5/1420, had not recommended any reductions. The Advisory Committee felt that if the amounts referred to in those foot-notes were required, they could be absorbed. It therefore recommended that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$37,000 would be needed in 1972.

4. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the Third Committee, an additional appropriation of \$37,000 would be required under section 3, chapter III of the budget estimates for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SIXTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8570 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 91\*\*\* (A/C.5/1418)**

5. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee agreed that if the General Assembly were to adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee (A/8570, para. 17), an additional appropriation in the amount of \$12,500 would be required under section 12 of the budget estimates for 1972. The Advisory Committee would consider the appropriation required for 1973 when it examined the budget estimates for that year.

6. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation attached great importance to the draft resolution adopted by the Sixth Committee and to the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. It noted that the draft provided, *inter alia*, for a minimum of 15 fellowships in 1972 and 1973 at the request of Governments of developing countries and hoped that when the Secretary-General submitted his initial budget estimates for 1973 he would be able to report that the provision had been implemented in so far as 1972 was concerned and would include in those estimates the amount required to implement the provision in 1973.

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur be asked to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt the Sixth Committee's draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$12,500 under section 12 would be required in 1972.

*It was so decided.*

\*\*\* United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law: report of the Secretary-General.

## AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (*continued*) (A/8322, A/8406 and Corr.1 and 3, A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2-27, A/8428 and Corr.1, A/8446 and Add.1, A/C.5/1320/Rev.1 and Add.1, A/C.5/1362, A/C.5/1364, A/C.5/1365, A/C.5/1366 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2, A/C.5/1376, A/C.5/1377, A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1381-1384, A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1388 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1389 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1390 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1391, A/C.5/1392, A/C.5/1396, A/C.5/1400, A/C.5/1405-1408, A/C.5/1417, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.3 and Corr.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.8, 13, 14, 16, 22 and 25, E/5038)

*Revised estimates under section 17. Activities in 1972 of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts established under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights (A/8408/Add.25, A/C.5/1366/Add.2)*

8. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had requested (A/C.5/1366/Add.2) an additional appropriation of \$131,400 under section 17. The discussion of the question by the Advisory Committee had revealed that the expenditures of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group established under resolution 2 (XXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights had fallen below the approved appropriations and that economies could be realized in various ways. The Committee had therefore felt that an additional appropriation of \$120,000 would suffice to enable the Working Group to carry out its mandate. Accordingly it had recommended that the Secretary-General's request be reduced by \$11,400.

9. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation would vote against the recommendation.

10. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) said that his delegation hoped that the suggested reductions would have no adverse effect on the very important work being done by the Working Group.

11. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8408/Add.25, para. 5) for an additional appropriation of \$120,000 under section 17, chapter IX of the budget estimates for 1972.

*The recommendation was adopted by 55 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions.*

12. Mr. STEWARD (South Africa) said that the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, was, in the view of his delegation, an illegitimate body. Ever since its establishment, its activities had been constitutionally controversial, and his delegation could not associate itself with the appropriation of funds in furtherance of its illegal activities.

13. In addition to those legal considerations, there were also financial implications to be considered. In recent years, the Organization had given serious consideration to a number of proposals for effecting economies, *inter alia*: avoidance of the proliferation of committees and other

bodies and prevention of overlapping in the activities of different bodies; reduction of documentation; elimination of extensive and generally unproductive tours abroad by the members of various bodies; and reduction in the length and number of sessions of subsidiary bodies. In connexion with the last two points, he wished to draw attention to the fact that the *Ad Hoc* Working Group had proposed to hold two sessions in 1972 of a duration of two weeks and one week respectively and to undertake a five-week field mission to Africa costing \$103,800. With regard to documentation, it was stated in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8319 and Corr.1, para. 58) that in 1969 the *Ad Hoc* Group had accounted for 2 per cent of the document pages (10,749 pages), 1 per cent of the page-units (4,996,030 units) and 3 per cent of the pages of verbatim records (927 pages) produced by the Organization as a whole. With regard to the proliferation of committees, his delegation was of the opinion that the Working Group did not meet the criterion of necessity. Furthermore, it was obvious that there was considerable overlapping between its activities and those of other bodies—some of which, incidentally, his delegation considered to be equally illegitimate.

14. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), in explanation of his vote, said that, although his delegation fully supported the goals of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group and favoured its continuing its work, it felt that the Working Group's mandate, as formulated in resolution 7 (XXVII) of the Commission on Human Rights was very weak. The resolution merely entrusted the Group with surveying the situation in regions where there were grave manifestations of colonialism and racial discrimination. Moreover, the appropriation requested for the Working Group seemed rather high since it included the travel and subsistence costs of a 15-man staff which was to accompany the Group. In view of the fact that there were only six members in the Working Group itself, there seemed little justification for such a large staff. For those reasons, his delegation had abstained in the vote on the recommendation.

## AGENDA ITEMS 83 AND 26

*Publications and documentation of the United Nations (continued)\** (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362, A/8437, A/8488, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8540):

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (*concluded*)\* (A/8437);
- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (*continued*)\* (A/8319 and Corr.1, A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (*continued*)\* (A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/8540)

*Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly: report of the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly [section IX] (concluded)\** (Corr.1, A/8532 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.16, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.37 to 39/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.46)

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (part I) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.46)*

\* Resumed from the 1473rd meeting.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would assume that the Committee approved part I (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.46) of its draft report.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 75

##### Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1971 (concluded)\*

##### *Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.20)*

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should vote on draft resolutions A and B in paragraph 15 of the draft report (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.20).

17. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) pointed out that, according to paragraph 13, the Committee had already approved the draft resolutions.

18. The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said that paragraph 13 should not have been included in the draft report. The Committee had voted on the total amount of the appropriations involved but it still had to take a formal vote on the draft resolutions themselves.

*Draft resolution A was adopted by 57 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution B was adopted by 60 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 85

##### Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (concluded) (A/8409, A/8598)

19. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/8409) recommended adjustments in benefits with financial implications amounting to \$73.6 million. However, it provided no data to demonstrate the inadequacy of the existing level of benefits. Obviously, the purpose of the recommendation was to use the Fund's accumulated surplus. That was not only administratively and financially unsound, it was also morally unjustifiable. The fact that the Fund had a \$100 million surplus did not justify increasing the benefits it provided. Many other factors should be taken into account, such as, for instance, the level of pensions paid to national civil servants, particularly in those countries where United Nations offices were situated.

20. It was surprising that the question should be taken up so near the end of the General Assembly session. The Joint Staff Pension Board could have consulted the competent bodies: the Special Committee for the Review of the

United Nations Salary System, which had been entrusted with the consideration of all aspects of staff remuneration including the question of pensions, or the International Civil Service Advisory Board (ICSAB). It seemed that an attempt was being made to force the Fifth Committee into hasty decisions. That impression had been heightened by the fact that his delegation had had to request some elementary figures several times before obtaining the desired information and had even then not received full satisfaction.

21. It would be advisable therefore to defer the question of increasing benefits to the twenty-seventh session, bearing in mind the fact that the relevant proposals could be studied in the meanwhile by ICSAB or by the Special Committee. Furthermore, it should be ascertained why the Fund had so large a surplus. It was probably due to the fact that, in addition to the 7 per cent of their salary paid into the Fund by staff members, a contribution of 14 per cent of staff members' salaries was paid into the Fund from the regular budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Such a high contribution might have been justified in the early days of the Pension Fund in order to provide a sound base, but the Fund had since accumulated approximately \$600 million, which was more than three times the size of the Organization's annual budget. Moreover, the Fund received an income of some \$20 million annually from its investments in money markets all over the world. Obviously, there was no longer any reason for the high level of the Organization's contributions to the Pension Fund. In the circumstances a 3 per cent or 4 per cent reduction in contributions might be in order; moreover, it would permit substantial economies without detriment to the Fund or United Nations personnel.

22. In March 1970, an Act had been passed in the United States raising the Government's contribution to pension schemes to 7 per cent. Although the representative of the Pension Fund had not replied to his delegation's question on the level of Government contributions in Switzerland, it was known that, under an Act of 1950, the contributions of the Swiss Government and civil servants had been set at 6 per cent. The Committee had been informed of the levels of contribution to pension funds in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and Italy. It had not been told the contributions in other countries where the United Nations had offices, such as Ethiopia and Thailand. Such a one-sided approach based only on the highest figures—and even those were below the United Nations level—with no regard for the figures at other duty stations was hard to explain. Clearly there was a need for a comparative study of the level of contributions in the United Nations and those in other countries which had sizable United Nations offices. Since even the Governments of such highly industrialized countries as the United States and Switzerland could not afford to contribute twice as much as their employees to pension funds, the developing countries, which included most of the Member States of the United Nations, could afford it even less. The time had come therefore for the question of improved benefits to be examined by the Special Committee and ICSAB. The Fifth Committee could resume its consideration of the question at the twenty-seventh session in the light of the findings of those bodies and of the comparative study of contribution levels in countries with United Nations offices.

\* Resumed from the 1445th meeting.

23. In the meantime, on behalf of the Polish and Soviet delegations, he proposed the following paragraph for inclusion in the report of the Fifth Committee:

“The Fifth Committee requests the Secretary-General, jointly with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Administration of the Pension Fund, to submit his recommendations concerning possible measures for the reduction of contributions to the Joint Staff Pension Fund.”

24. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that the wording of the Soviet proposal implied that there was some basis for a reduction in United Nations contributions to the Joint Staff Pension Fund. He could accept a form of words which would call upon the Secretary-General, together with ACC and the Administration of the Pension Fund, to state their views on the appropriate level of contributions to the Fund.

25. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the joint Soviet-Polish proposal in no way prejudged the issue, but merely called upon the Secretary-General to comment on possible measures for the reduction of contributions to the Fund. If, having considered the matter, the Secretary-General, ACC and the Pension Fund concluded that a reduction in contributions was inappropriate, they could so indicate to the General Assembly at the twenty-seventh session, setting out the reasons for that conclusion. However, taking into account the Fund's resources of capital and the proposal to increase benefits, there was undoubtedly a possibility that a reduction could be made.

26. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that for the Committee to adopt the Soviet formulation would be tantamount to saying that it could not accept the Pension Board's report. It was clear from the report that, contrary to what had been intimated by the Soviet representative, the Fund did not have excess resources. He proposed that the matter should be put to the vote.

27. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) supported the United States proposal. To initiate an inquiry such as that suggested by the Soviet representative would entail a proliferation of documentation.

28. Mr. SANTAMARIA (Colombia) associated himself with the remarks made by the Mexican representative. A vote should be taken on the draft resolution contained in annex IV of the report of the Joint Staff Pension Board, which in essence had been endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Those two bodies were expert in the matter and the Committee should accept their conclusions.

29. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation endorsed the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8598), in particular its remarks concerning the need to reward United Nations employees with long years of service by providing an appropriate pension.

30. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking also on behalf of the delegation of Poland, said that in view of the opposition to his proposal, he would not press it to a vote.

31. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolution contained in annex IV to document A/8409, on the understanding that the Committee's report would contain the proviso that its action was subject to the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8598).

*The draft resolution was adopted by 58 votes to 8, with 1 abstention.*

32. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should be requested to report that decision directly to the General Assembly in plenary meeting.

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 79

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (*continued*):\*  
(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (*concluded*)\*\* (A/8351, A/C.5/1369, A/C.5/1386 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

33. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed with the elections to fill vacancies in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It was necessary for the General Assembly to appoint, at the current session, four persons to fill vacancies occurring in the membership of the Advisory Committee as a result of the expiration, on 31 December 1971, of the terms of office of Mr. Alwan, Mr. Esfandiary, Mr. Naudy and Mr. Rhodes. It was also necessary to fill the additional seat on the Advisory Committee newly created to permit a member from the People's Republic of China to participate in its work. In that connexion, the Government of the People's Republic of China had proposed the appointment of Mr. Hsing Sung-yi. Five persons had been proposed for appointment in respect of those five vacancies (see A/C.5/1386 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

*At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Saramo (Finland) and Mr. Mapara (Zambia) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	74
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	74
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	74
<i>Required majority:</i>	38

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Alwan . . . . .	67
Mr. Esfandiary . . . . .	55
Mr. Naudy . . . . .	61
Mr. Rhodes . . . . .	58
Mr. Hsing Sung-yi . . . . .	60

*Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Mohamed Alwan (Iraq), Mr. Mohsen S. Esfandiary (Iran), Mr. André*

\* Resumed from the 1474th meeting.

\*\* Resumed from the 1426th meeting.

*Naudy (France), Mr. John I. M. Rhodes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mr. Hsing Sung-yi (China) were recommended for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for three-year terms beginning on 1 January 1972.*

34. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Rapporteur should be requested to report directly to the General Assembly on the matter.

*It was so decided.*

35. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) and Mr. RUIZ DE GAMBOA (Chile) congratulated the members of the Advisory Committee who had been recommended for re-election and warmly welcomed the recommended appointment of the member from the People's Republic of China, who would make a significant contribution to the work of the Advisory Committee.

36. Mr. NAUDY (France) and Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) thanked the Committee for recommending them for re-appointment to the Advisory Committee and extended a welcome to the new member from the People's Republic of China.

37. Mr. HSING Sung-yi (China) said that his delegation was pleased to be able to participate in the work of the Fifth Committee. He would co-operate closely with his fellow-members in the Advisory Committee.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION II SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8577 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 47\* (A/8408/ADD.26, A/C.5/1416 AND CORR.1)**

38. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was an important subject on which the Advisory Committee had considered it necessary to submit a written report (A/8408/Add.26). After reviewing the substance of paragraphs 4 and 5 of that report, he said that in paragraphs 6 to 8 the Advisory Committee discussed the Secretary-General's proposals for post-Conference work, which accounted for some \$200,000 of his total estimate of \$428,800. In paragraph 8, the Advisory Committee noted that draft resolution II submitted by the Second Committee (A/8577, para. 26) had not specifically endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal to carry over a substantial part of the Conference secretariat until the end of 1972, but had merely requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for follow-up work. The Advisory Committee was of the opinion that the follow-up work could be done more economically than proposed by the Secretary-General. It questioned the need to retain such a large number of staff for six months after the Conference and was concerned that no action should be taken between the Conference and the twenty-seventh session of the

Assembly which might have the effect of prejudging the Assembly's decision on the recommendations of the Conference, particularly any which might deal with future institutional arrangements for handling environmental problems.

39. Further economies were discussed in paragraphs 9 and 11 of the report, and in paragraph 12 the Advisory Committee, having indicated the areas in which economies could be made without prejudice to the success of the Conference, recommended that the additional expenditure required in 1972 should be reduced from \$428,800 to \$300,000. It had not tried to apportion the reduction between the various headings in the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/1416 and Corr.1) because it felt that the Secretary-General should enjoy a measure of latitude in the matter.

40. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that his delegation attached great importance to the question of the human environment. Nevertheless, it considered that the Fifth Committee should eschew any action that might lead to an unnecessary proliferation of bureaucracy. Many of the tasks proposed for the Conference secretariat could be performed by existing specialized agencies including WHO and FAO, as well as by IAEA. The function of the secretariat of the Conference was temporary and if its existence was prolonged, it should confine its activities to ensuring the necessary co-ordination between States interested in the question and existing specialized agencies. Care must be taken to avoid establishing a new permanent body to deal with a subject that could be dealt with by national scientific institutions and existing specialized agencies. His delegation therefore fully endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

41. In conclusion, he said that, in order to avoid confusion with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the officials responsible for activities similar to those of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the Human Environment should be given a title other than secretary-general.

42. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his Government was in favour of developing broad co-operation between all States in such an important matter as the preservation of the human environment. It had supported in principle the proposal that the first world conference on the subject should be convened in Stockholm, and Soviet organizations had already contributed much to the preparatory work for the Conference.

43. In connexion with that preparatory work, he said that his Government had been of the opinion that all countries, with no exceptions whatsoever, should be able to participate in the Conference. However, it was obvious from discussions that had taken place on the question of participation in other forums that some Western countries, in defiance of common sense, were unwilling to allow the German Democratic Republic to participate in the Conference. Such an approach by the Western countries cast doubts on the usefulness of convening the Conference. If the Western countries were really concerned about the need to preserve the human environment but were unable to come to an agreement with other countries concerning the

\* United Nations Conference on the Human Environment: report of the Secretary-General.



question of participation, it would be better to postpone the Conference until 1973. In that way, all countries would have an opportunity to reach agreement on the question and thus ensure that the Conference was truly international in character. In paragraph 3 of the draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee, the Secretary-General was requested to invite representatives of the specialized agencies and IAEA to participate in the Conference. That was another instance of discrimination, for it meant that States which were not members of the specialized agencies or of the United Nations would be unable to attend the Conference. Account should also be taken of the fact that the third session of UNCTAD was due to be held in 1972. In view of the limited means available to the Organization, it would seem unjustified to hold two such large Conferences in 1972. His delegation was therefore unable to agree that additional funds should be appropriated for the Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and would vote against any such proposal.

44. Mr. NAUDY (France) endorsed the conclusions reached by the Advisory Committee. The reductions recommended by that Committee would in no way prejudice the success of the Conference. Moreover, the reductions would have the advantage of restraining certain costly bureaucratic developments which would have the effect of prejudging any decision the General Assembly might take on the institutional arrangements for handling environmental problems.

45. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) said that his delegation shared the concern of the Fifth Committee that, wherever possible, savings should be made in the regular budget of the Organization. Nevertheless, it did feel that the United Nations—and, indeed, the Swedish Government—had spent considerable sums on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Every effort must be made to ensure that the best possible use was made of that investment. His delegation therefore attached considerable importance to the question of follow-up activities. It was important that at its twenty-seventh session the General Assembly should have before it a proper report on the basis of which it would be able to take decisions on the substance of the Conference and on matters of an institutional character. The Secretary-General must have adequate staff to prepare such a report. From his personal experience with the preparations for the Conference, he could say that the extra staff was being requested not with a view to prejudging future institutional arrangements but solely in order that a proper report might be prepared for the General Assembly. The views expressed by the representative of Italy concerning the need to use existing specialized agencies were widely shared by members of the Preparatory Committee. The recommendations to be put to the Conference by the Secretary-General would show that the widest possible use had been made of existing specialized agencies and would probably reflect the need for a co-ordinating unit in the United Nations itself. The Conference would, however, deal with a great deal of material and recommendations relating to areas of concern to several specialized agencies. It was in order to clarify such questions that it was important that a good report should be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session and it was for that reason that the

recommended reduction in post-Conference staff was a matter of concern to his delegation.

46. Despite its concern, his delegation was willing to support the recommendations contained in the relevant report of the Advisory Committee. Nevertheless, its misgivings regarding the possible effects of the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee on the follow-up work after the Stockholm Conference had not been completely allayed. He would like them to be reflected in an appropriate manner in the Fifth Committee's report to the General Assembly on the question. He also hoped that the Secretary-General would bear Sweden's position in mind during the period following the Conference.

47. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation would vote against any allocation of United Nations funds to finance a conference in which all interested States were not guaranteed participation on an equal basis. It was incomprehensible that the German Democratic Republic, a highly developed, industrialized State, should not be invited to attend a meeting designed to promote the preservation of the human environment—an urgent problem which could be tackled only with the co-operation of all countries. In particular, it was essential to ensure the participation of the German Democratic Republic in any measures to control marine pollution in the Baltic. If the Western countries, which had transformed the problem into a political issue, persisted in their efforts to exclude the German Democratic Republic from the proceedings of the Stockholm Conference, it would be better to postpone the Conference until 1973. Only on the basis of international action involving the participation of all States could progress be made towards conserving the human environment.

48. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that his country's attitude towards the German Democratic Republic was well known. However, the Fifth Committee was not an appropriate forum in which to initiate a political debate on the matter.

49. His delegation attached great importance to the contents of paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report and wholly supported the Advisory Committee's findings and recommendations.

50. Mr. REFESHAL (Norway) said that his delegation was prepared to endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendations. However, it shared the concern expressed by the delegation of Sweden and wished to join with that delegation in requesting that its position should be duly reflected in the Fifth Committee's report.

51. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) expressed regret that the German Democratic Republic had not been invited to participate in the Stockholm Conference and suggested that the Conference should be postponed until 1973 with a view to ensuring its participation.

52. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report.

53. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that his delegation could not support an appropriation of funds for activities

which involved discriminatory practices; the German Democratic Republic, as a highly developed, industrialized country, should have been invited to participate in the Stockholm Conference. Accordingly, his delegation would maintain the position which it had taken in the Second Committee and would abstain in the vote on the matter.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of a quorum, the Committee could not vote on the question; a vote would be taken at the following meeting.

*The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I AND II SUBMITTED BY  
THE FOURTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8618  
CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 66\* (A/C.5/1422,  
A/C.5/1423)**

*Implications of draft resolution I (A/C.5/1422)*

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1422) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I submitted by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/8618, para. 25), said that the Advisory Committee concurred with the statement, in which the Secretary-General indicated that adoption of the draft by the General Assembly would necessitate an additional appropriation of \$71,600 in the budget estimates for 1972.

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that if it adopted the Fourth Committee's draft resolution, an additional amount of \$71,600 would need to be appropriated under the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

*It was so decided.*

3. Mr. STEWARD (South Africa) said that, in the view of his delegation, there was no legal basis for the creation of the United Nations Council for South West Africa, which therefore was not empowered to undertake any representational or other functions on behalf of South West Africa. For that reason it was illegal to use funds from the United Nations regular budget to finance the Council's activities; his delegation wished to emphasize very strongly its opposition to such a procedure.

4. Furthermore, the travel programme proposed for the Council, whose full membership was intending to visit Africa and Europe, at an estimated cost of \$37,400, was administratively inappropriate and financially unsound. The South African delegation was opposed in principle to expensive trips abroad for United Nations bodies, which

\* Question of Namibia:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
- (b) Report of the United Nations Council for Namibia;
- (c) United Nations Fund for Namibia: report of the Secretary-General;
- (d) Appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia.

accomplished very little, particularly in the current case when their aims were illegal. Those comments applied also to the proposal to intensify publicity, to produce a film and to issue a series of commemorative postage stamps. His delegation was convinced that the publication of the magazine *Objective: Justice*, which was activist in trend, did not come within the purview of the Office of Public Information's mandate.

*Implications of draft resolution II (A/C.5/1423)*

5. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1423) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II submitted by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/8618, para. 25), said that the Advisory Committee concurred with the statement, in which the Secretary-General indicated that adoption of the draft by the General Assembly would necessitate additional appropriations in the amounts of \$50,000 under section 12 and \$2,900 under section 17, chapter V, of the budget estimates for 1972. The Advisory Committee had noted that the programme was a transitional measure and that the additional appropriation requested for section 12 was the same as the one for 1971.

6. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was unable to support paragraph 3 of the draft resolution in question, under which the General Assembly would decide to allocate to the United Nations Fund for Namibia the sum of \$50,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations for 1972. He recalled that the Soviet Union delegation had always maintained the principle that contributions to that Fund and other funds of the same kind by States Members should always be voluntary. He asked to have the financial implications of that draft resolution put to the vote.

*The Committee decided, by 58 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions, to inform the General Assembly that should draft resolution II of the Fourth Committee be adopted, additional appropriations amounting to \$50,000 under section 12 and \$2,900 under section 17, chapter V, of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972 would be required.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
FOURTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8621 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 72\*\* (A/C.5/1424)**

7. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the

\*\* United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa: report of the Secretary-General.

statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1424) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/8621, para. 9), said that the Advisory Committee concurred with the statement, in which the Secretary-General indicated that adoption of the draft by the General Assembly would necessitate an additional appropriation of \$100,000 under section 12 of the budget estimates for 1972, as a further transitional measure.

8. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that if it adopted the draft resolution of the Fourth Committee, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 would be required under section 12 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

*It was so decided.*

9. Mr. STEWARD (South Africa) recalled that provision had been made as long ago as 1967 for the partial financing of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa from the regular budget "as a transitional measure". Although that was to have been an interim measure, it appeared to have become an annual habit, despite the fact that funds of that nature should be financed only from voluntary contributions.

10. In the view of the South African delegation, that annual contribution should be discontinued. If the Programme received no support from Member States, that was not surprising since in the case of South Africa and South West Africa, at least, there was no need for such a programme; the education and training facilities provided there were more than adequate. If the Educational and Training Programme was not successful, the logical deduction should be drawn. The Advisory Committee would no doubt give consideration to the financing of the Programme from the regular budget at a time of financial crisis.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/L.653 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 100\* (A/C.5/1427)

11. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee endorsed the Secretary-General's view (see A/C.5/1427) that should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/L.653 and should the Security Council decide to hold meetings in an African capital, the estimated costs would be between \$150,000 and \$250,000. It was impossible to make more precise estimates for the time being. He emphasized that there was no request for any additional appropriation; it was merely a tentative estimate of the costs that would be entailed if the Security Council decided to hold those meetings, which would be covered under the General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year.

12. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General

Assembly directly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/L.653, and should the Security Council decide to hold meetings in an African capital, costs of between \$150,000 and \$250,000 would be incurred; furthermore, should such expenditure arise, it would be dealt with under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

*It was so decided.*

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)\*\*

13. Mr. TURNER (Controller) wished to reply to the representative of New Zealand, who had asked (1480th meeting) for a detailed and explicit statement of the precise manner in which the Secretary-General planned to meet the cash situation during the balance of 1971 and in 1972, and to other representatives who had raised the question. At the time of preparation of the Secretary-General's introduction (A/8401/Add.1 and Corr.1) to his report on the work of the Organization and in his statement to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/1376), the Secretary-General had stressed that the United Nations was living from hand to mouth and that meeting the payroll had become increasingly difficult. In that connexion, he read out paragraphs 120 and 121 of the Secretary-General's introduction to his report.

14. Elaborating on the points made by the Secretary-General which related to the liquidity situation, he stated that unpaid assessments to the regular budget were continuing to rise. Estimates of the situation could be made starting with the fact that on 31 December 1970 unpaid assessments to the regular budget had totalled \$55.2 million, of which amount only \$13.3 million had been considered as collectable in due course. By 31 December 1971, it was estimated that unpaid assessments would have increased to \$65.2 million with no assurance that more than \$13.4 million would be paid. By 31 December 1972, it was estimated that arrears would have reached almost \$70 million, of which it was expected that no more than \$14 million would be collected.

15. The Secretary-General had been forced to utilize balances in funds and accounts in his custody beyond the clear intent of the authorizing resolutions. With regard to that point, the Secretary-General was authorized under the annual General Assembly resolution on the Working Capital Fund to have recourse to the use of cash in special funds and accounts in his custody "in the event of urgent need" during the financial period; that special accounts were to be drawn upon only as a last resort; that such funds were to be used only if they were not immediately required for the normal programmes for which they had been designed and without prejudice to those programmes; that repayment of any such advances was to be a first charge on contributions received. For a considerable time, and especially during the current year, such borrowing had been frequent and virtually continuous, owing to the fact that the Working Capital Fund of \$40 million had been fully depleted and the net amount of \$25.2 million received as voluntary contributions from certain Members to help restore United Nations solvency had been fully expended. Currently, more

\* Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity: holding of meetings of the Security Council in an African capital.

\*\* Resumed from the 1480th meeting.

than \$9 million was due to certain special purpose accounts which were funded from regular budgetary receipts, mainly the Tax Equalization Fund and the several United Nations building construction accounts.

16. Even after those depletions, utilizations and borrowings, payrolls and other necessary expenditures could not have been met during October and November except for the fact that some \$15 million in contributions which had been due and payable had been received from Members earlier than expected, as a result of special pleas. There could be no certainty of year-end obligations being met unless Members who normally paid their contributions in the last half of December, did so. On 16 December the Organization's cash and net liquid assets had totalled \$5.7 million. For the balance of December interorganization transfers and remittances, mainly for services rendered, together with income from revenue-producing activities, among other factors, were anticipated to yield approximately \$5 million and expected governmental contributions would provide a further \$14 million, which would give a total cash availability of approximately \$25 million against which estimated disbursements were calculated at \$13.5 million.

17. With reference to the cash position through 1972, a table had been prepared, based on the following assumptions: that programme and other expenditures decided upon by the General Assembly were to be carried out; that contributions likely to be received for the financial year 1972 and in respect of arrears for prior years would reflect past payment patterns; that remittances received for services rendered and disbursements made on a month-to-month basis would generally conform to the experience of the previous year or so; that borrowing from certain United Nations accounts under the Secretary-General's jurisdiction would average some \$9 million throughout 1972. On the basis of those assumptions and with all the necessary reservations that must be made, it would appear that the Organization might have barely sufficient cash resources to meet commitments through the months of January and February but would be in trouble by the end of March, worse trouble in May and would be in a very serious liquidity situation by the end of June, perhaps to the extent of some \$23 to \$24 million. The situation from a liquidity viewpoint would be at least serious and difficult throughout the last quarter of 1972.

18. If Governments were to pay the full amounts owed on the regular budget "on time", the cash liquidity problem would disappear. Under regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, "contributions and advances shall be considered as due and payable in full within thirty days" after notification by the Secretary-General of the amounts due; that meant that all regular budget assessments were due and payable by about 15 February of each year.

19. Even after having expended a total of \$74.2 million from the Working Capital Fund, from voluntary contributions towards the solvency of the United Nations and from "permanent" borrowing, the Secretary-General would be forced to borrow additional funds from accounts in his custody during 1972, if authorized programmes were to move forward and if essential administrative and meeting

services were to continue to be provided. It should be noted that apart from possible borrowing from UNDP, few of the trust funds for which the Secretary-General was responsible were in a position to make meaningful loans to the United Nations. Some of those funds were inadequate even to meet the on-going operating needs of the relevant programmes. The conclusion clearly emerged that the Organization could no longer proceed with deficit financing. It must begin to order its affairs so as to live within its actual income.

20. In his statement at the 1427th meeting of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/1376), the Secretary-General had indicated that in constructing his estimates he had been proceeding on the assumption that it was generally agreed that a necessary minimum of resources should be made available for the sound and orderly fulfilment of the Organization's continuing responsibilities. To achieve that objective, he had felt strongly that the various recommendations which had been made or would be made to the General Assembly in that context should be considered strictly on their individual merits. At the same time, the Secretary-General had been persuaded that some measure of budgetary restraint was unavoidable. Therefore his main endeavour had been and would be to maintain as stable a rate of increase over the level of requirements for the current year as possible, preferably of the order of no more than 10 per cent. On the basis of all decisions taken by the Fifth Committee to date, as well as certain outstanding items which remained to be submitted to it for its consideration, it was now clear that the total level of the appropriations for 1972 was likely to be of the order of \$213.3 million. Compared with the revised appropriations for 1971, that represented an increase of \$18.6 million or 9.6 per cent, of which \$3.2 million, or approximately 1.5 per cent, related to the effect of the variations in rates of exchange which had occurred since the beginning of 1971. Net requirements for 1972 would be approximately \$177.4 million, representing an increase of \$15 million, or 15.6 per cent compared with the corresponding figure for 1971. The corresponding percentage increases for 1971 compared with 1970 had been 15.6 per cent and 18.25 per cent respectively. All parties to the budget-making process were entitled to their share of the credit for that favourable outcome.

21. The Secretary-General had not lost sight of the vital distinction between his authority to spend in terms of the appropriations as approved and his ability to spend in terms of cash resources at his disposal in the form of contributions received. In the Secretary-General's statement to the Committee, as well as in that by Mr. Hambro at the 1436th meeting of the Committee, the steadily increasing dimension of that purely practical problem had been underlined in no uncertain terms. In that regard, the Secretary-General had affirmed that cuts in the level of the appropriations would not in themselves contribute to the restoration of solvency. That could be achieved only by voluntary contributions to settle the current deficit and, as indicated by Mr. Hambro, by solving the problems connected with those provisions in the regular budget which had been the source of the deficit that had been accumulating annually. The Secretary-General had therefore ventured to believe that a policy of budgetary constraint for 1972 would make it easier for many Governments, especially the larger contributors, to lend the kind of voluntary financial support which was so sorely needed. In the absence of such

support in sufficient measure, he had further stated that he would see no alternative to proposing to the Fifth Committee at the current session a series of restrictive measures designed to arrest any further increase in the deficit by ensuring that expenditures were henceforth circumscribed by the resources actually placed at his disposal, with statutory and contractual obligations receiving first priority. The Secretary-General had added that if such measures were to serve the stated purpose, the General Assembly would need to take the complementary decision that any unexpended balances which might be achieved by those means should not be returned to Member States, but should be retained in some special account or added to the Working Capital Fund. The possibility of similar treatment being accorded to income from revenue-producing activities had also been raised. In effect, the endeavour would not be only to offset by means of savings in 1972 and future years the anticipated shortfall of some \$4 million in the payment of assessed contributions, but progressively to reduce the accumulated deficit by using those savings for the repayment of loans or the replenishment of the Working Capital Fund.

22. Since the Secretary-General and Mr. Hambro had last spoken to the Committee (1436th meeting) and despite the various possibilities which had been brought to the attention of the Member States, there had regrettably been no appreciable progress towards arriving at an early solution to the twin problems of the cumulative deficit and the steadily deteriorating cash position.

23. The time had come to consider in all earnestness what steps could be taken at least to alleviate the very real practical difficulties which would confront the Secretariat in the months ahead.

24. In the first instance, the Secretary-General continued to believe that, pending a final solution, the least that should be done was to take steps to arrest any further increase in the deficit in 1972. Based on past experience, the shortfall in assessed contributions for that year would again be approximately \$3.9 million. That situation could be alleviated to the extent of \$1.8 million if, as the Secretary-General had suggested at an earlier stage, the General Assembly were to authorize him to credit to a special account or to the Working Capital Fund the net surplus which had arisen in 1970 and prior years and which would, in the normal course of events, have been available for credit to Member States against their assessed contributions for 1972. In order to cover the balance of the shortfall, and on the understanding that the appropriations would be approved in full, the Secretary-General would undertake to administer them in such a way as to aim at an unexpended balance of \$2.1 million, or approximately 1 per cent under the budget as a whole. Such a reduction, if applied evenly and fairly in respect of all purposes and activities which lent themselves to a measure of control, would be unlikely to result in appreciable detriment to any one of them. In making that proposal, the Secretary-General was aware of the fact that he would thereby be adding to the administrative problems he already faced as the result of certain decisions taken by the Fifth Committee which he had not challenged but in respect of which he had certain reservations. He would, for instance, be required to reduce substantially the costs of documentation

of the Organization, without any real assurance that his efforts would not be diminished by extraneous factors over which he had no control. Not to be overlooked, moreover, were the many instances in which particular activities had been approved, but for which no additional funds had been provided on the grounds that it should be possible for the Secretariat to absorb the costs involved. In the circumstances, it must be stressed that the undertaking to attempt to achieve further reductions related solely to the anticipated appropriations as matters currently stood. Excluded would be any additional needs which might arise in due course as a result of unusual circumstances, such as a further realignment of international currencies.

25. In conclusion, he stated that the Secretariat stood ready to do its share to alleviate the problems which were expected to arise. Much depended on the willingness of Member States to assist in that task. Clearly, it would be irresponsible, if not illegal, for any Executive Head to enter into commitments which could not be honoured. A very careful eye would therefore have to be kept on the situation from month to month if not from day to day. In general, priority would need to be given at all times to the fulfilment of statutory or contractual obligations. Any further measures which might be called for would depend entirely on the circumstances. The Committee would no doubt concede that further speculation on that score would be both premature and essentially unproductive. The main endeavour should be to take early action in order that the necessity for any extreme measures might be avoided. He hoped that action would be taken to improve the cash situation and that Member States would pay their contributions in good time. The Secretary-General had noted with interest, in the report by Mr. Hambro, the proposal to establish an *ad hoc* working group which would continue the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies constituted in 1965 and 1966. If such an initiative were taken, the Member States could count on the full co-operation of the Secretariat.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Controller's statement should be issued as a press release.

27. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) thanked the Controller and requested that the statement should also be issued in Spanish.

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in that case, the Controller's statement should be issued as a conference room paper in all the working languages, but drew the Committee's attention to the financial implications of such a decision.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1</sup>

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION II SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8577 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 47 (concluded) (A/8408/Add.26, A/C.5/1416 and Corr.1)**

29. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked that a vote be taken on the recommendation in

<sup>1</sup> Text subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.56.

paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.26).

*The recommendation was adopted by 53 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions.*

30. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would, therefore, inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution II submitted by the Second Committee (A/8577, para. 26), an additional appropriation of \$300,000 would be required for 1972 under section 2, chapter X (United Nations Conference on the Human Environment), and that the amount would be partly offset by income from staff assessment (Income section 1), estimated at \$27,000.

#### AGENDA ITEM 83

**Publications and documentation of the United Nations (concluded)** (A/8362, A/8540, A/8624, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.51):

- (b) Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (concluded) (A/8362);
- (c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (concluded) (A/8624)

#### *Recurrent publications of the United Nations (A/8362, A/8540, A/8624, A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.51)*

31. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8624) was an interim report. The Committee had considered that it was not in a position to judge the merits of most of the publications referred to in the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of Mr. Macy, a member of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/8362). He referred in particular to those recommendations relating to technical subjects. It therefore endorsed the Secretary-General's suggestion (see A/8540, para. 12) that recommendations concerning publications in the economic and social fields and the field of human rights should be referred to the appropriate inter-governmental bodies. In the view of the Advisory Committee, the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit should be considered all together when the appropriate bodies had submitted their observations on Mr. Macy's findings.

32. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in the light of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8624), the Committee should propose adoption of the following draft resolution by the General Assembly:

#### *"The General Assembly*

*"1. Takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the programme of recurrent publications of the United Nations (see A/8362), and of the preliminary observations thereon by the Secretary-General (see A/8540) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8624);*

*"2. Requests those intergovernmental bodies concerned to consider the specific recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and to*

*transmit their observations, through the Economic and Social Council where appropriate, to the General Assembly in time for consideration at its twenty-seventh session;*

*"3. Further requests the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to submit their observations and recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session."*

*It was so decided.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1486th meeting)

*Progress made by the Administrative Management Service in conducting the manpower utilization survey of the Secretariat and revised estimates resulting from the survey (A/8408/Add.14, A/8408/Add.27, A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1406)*

33. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.27) contained the Committee's recommendations concerning the revised estimates for appropriations submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1406) resulting from decisions he had taken based on the manpower utilization survey carried out by the Administrative Management Service. In his revised estimates, the Secretary-General had reinstated, in sections 3 and 4 of the budget estimates, certain amounts that the Advisory Committee, in its first report (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2) on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972, had recommended for exclusion, pending completion of the surveys of manpower utilization. The amounts were referred to in sections A (i) and (ii) in paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.27). In paragraph 9 of the same report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the three data processing posts requested for the United Nations Office at Geneva should not be provided as established posts at that stage and that, in 1972, those requirements should be met from the temporary assistance funds available to the Geneva Office, with a consequential reduction of \$32,700 in the appropriation requested under section 3, chapter I, and \$6,500 under section 4. In paragraph 10, the Committee recommended the deletion of the provision of \$15,000 requested under section 3, chapter III for the engagement of an expert to assist in the reorganization of the Registry, since it believed that, in the interests of uniformity in the United Nations registry operations, the expert should be loaned by the Registry at Headquarters. In paragraph 12, the Committee pointed out that, since the proposals for the information centres had been formulated, the Fifth Committee had adopted a draft resolution on the subject (A/8531/Add.1, para. 151, draft resolution IX). The Advisory Committee therefore recommended deferment of action on the Secretary-General's proposals, so as to enable him to study the question and submit his conclusions to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session. If that recommendation was adopted, it would entail a reduction



of \$73,000. The total amount of the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee thus was \$128,100.

34. Introducing the Advisory Committee's other report (A/8408/Add.14), he drew attention to paragraph 6, in which that Committee noted the continuation of the tendency towards an increase in the number of high-level posts, and to paragraph 10, in which it stated that improved management techniques should have a direct impact on staff productivity. Finally in paragraph 11, it affirmed that the work done by the Administrative Management Service in the preceding 12 months had confirmed the Advisory Committee's view that the Service was a useful internal management tool.

35. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the Secretary-General had accepted the reasoning and recommendations of the Advisory Committee (see A/8408/Add.27).

36. With regard to the scope of the manpower utilization survey, he recalled that many of the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service were of a long-term nature, and that the full impact of the current survey would only be felt over a longer period of time. Realistic recommendations could only be made if the Service had an informed understanding of the work of the Secretariat and the problems confronting those who were responsible for that work, and that was an enormous task. Thus far, the Service had surveyed 75 per cent of the permanent posts in the Secretariat and it intended to terminate the survey by the end of the second quarter of 1972. Like the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General attached great importance to the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the survey. In fact, the work of the Administrative Management Service would not cease with the completion of the manpower survey; it should assist the departments and services concerned in implementing the recommendations it made.

37. The purpose of the manpower utilization survey was to assess as objectively as possible how staff resources could be used most effectively. It had not been the intention to reduce staff; while increases or decreases in various areas might be a factor in the better use of staff, that was only one way among many, as the Advisory Committee pointed out in its first report on the budget estimates for the financial year 1972.

38. The staff of the Administrative Management Service, consisting of only 15 Professionals, assisted when necessary by staff loaned from within the Secretariat or by special consultants comprised of persons of 11 different nationalities with specialized experience in a number of fields. There was no need to mention their dedication, competence and impartiality.

39. The Administrative Management Service had to a large extent accomplished the purposes of the manpower utilization survey. First, it had been able to diagnose the causes of inefficient use and deployment of manpower and had recommended ways to bring about improvements. It had developed useful experience and a growing reservoir of knowledge in its own field. Through the manpower survey, high-level Secretariat officials had acquired a better under-

standing of the importance of flexibility in deploying staff and of the need to improve organization, planning and evaluation of work. Largely as a result of the survey, it had been possible to redeploy staff to meet new and changing programme requirements. It was now possible to put the physical resources of the Secretariat to better use and a new base had been developed to facilitate future budgetary and manpower requirement reviews.

40. As was stated in paragraph 73 and annex IV of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2), the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service in regard to the manpower requirements of 13 of the units surveyed since November 1970 called for 44 new Professional and 78 new General Service posts, or a total of 122 additional posts; but in its report (A/8408/Add.27) the Advisory Committee had recommended some reductions.

41. The question of productivity had been raised more than once in the Fifth Committee. It was obvious that productivity was difficult to measure in an international organization and that in any case a quantitative measurement of productivity within the Secretariat did not always indicate efficiency. Several of the major recommendations of the Administrative Management Service dealt squarely with productivity, with the establishment of management control systems and standards for assessing productivity.

42. It was expected that when the manpower utilization survey had been completed, the primary role of the Administrative Management Service would be oriented much more towards action than towards surveys and recommendations. It would be called upon to assist departments and offices to put into effect better and more economical ways of carrying out their tasks and utilizing their resources.

43. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) was pleased to note that the work done to date by the Administrative Management Service had made distinct progress in improving the management capacity of the Organization. He expressed the hope that the Service would not slacken its efforts in that regard. Greater attention should now be paid to the implementation of the recommendations of the Service and it was to be hoped that it would henceforth concern itself more with helping the departments and offices concerned to make the recommended changes.

44. His delegation was pleased to note from paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report that there had been meetings and consultations with the Administrative Management Service and other bodies inside and outside the Secretariat. In that regard, it would be appropriate for the Service to hold a dialogue with similar bodies in other United Nations agencies, as that would be in everyone's interest.

45. In conclusion, he emphasized the objectivity of the work accomplished by the Administrative Management Service.

46. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, during its two-year lifetime, the

Administrative Management Service had surveyed 75 per cent of the Secretariat staff at a cost of \$2 million, which had gone mainly on wages and salaries of its staff, special consultants' fees and travel costs. The time had come to ask whether the Service had been successful, that was to say, whether the departments studied were now in a position to organize their work in such a way as to discharge their functions more effectively and with fewer staff. For its part, the Soviet Union delegation considered that the Service had not lived up to expectations. Everyone knew that in view of the unequal distribution of work between the various departments, overlapping and the saturation of manning tables, a survey of the utilization of Secretariat staff had been decided upon in the hope that it would reveal superfluous staff in certain units and would make it possible to define what steps should be taken to make the work more efficient, which would release some staff or at least prevent any increases. It was therefore a surprise to note that the results of the survey had been the opposite of what had been hoped: far from reducing or even stabilizing staff requirements, the Service had recommended considerable staff increases. The wages and salaries of the new officials, and those of the Service's own personnel, would amount to a total of \$7 million. It was therefore questionable whether it was desirable to prolong the existence of the service, to say nothing of retaining it permanently, as was envisaged in the Secretary-General's report.

47. His delegation considered that the Service's staff should be cut by half when the manpower survey was finished. Then, after it had prepared a synthesis of the conclusions it had reached, it should be dissolved completely. A very small group of three or four persons, under the authority of the Office of the Controller could then be responsible for the management control functions. Further, the Administrative Management Service did not have the requisite competence to undertake certain technical studies requested of it and was obliged to engage outside consultants. Consequently, the Soviet Union delegation could not approve the Service's recommendations regarding additional posts and would vote against them.

48. Mr. NAUDY (France) supported the conclusions formulated in the report of the Advisory Committee, particularly in view of the cuts recommended, because, out of the amount involved, \$734,000 corresponded to the reinstatement of credits for provisional posts which had been temporarily excluded from the budget estimates. His delegation was concerned, however, about the increases in the number of staff and the corresponding budgetary increase. It hoped that the Administrative Management Service would examine the matter in the minutest detail in its surveys.

49. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that three of the reports before the Committee (A/C.5/1378 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1380 and Corr.1 and A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2) gave a clear indication of the scope of the work done by the Administrative Management Service and confirmed the fact that it was dealing with the question of manpower utilization methodically and energetically. The Service was entering its second stage, the implementation of its recommendations. It was encouraging to note from the report of

the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 10) that increasing emphasis was already being placed on the implementation of recommendations, as requested by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee. In that regard, the progress outlined in paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report was encouraging, and it was to be hoped that it would continue and that the departments concerned, with assistance and advice from the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Administrative Management Service, would apply the Service's recommendations most diligently.

50. Paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report stated that by mid-1972, the Administrative Management Service would have completed the bulk of its survey and that it could then prepare a synthesis of the conclusions reached for the major units, which would enable the Secretary-General to draw conclusions on basic questions of management and organization of the Secretariat. Although the Service had already devoted a large part of its efforts to the questions of implementation and management, it was clear that it would not have the necessary capacity in that field until the survey was finished. It was interesting to note from paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's report that the management improvement programme would be developed with the active participation and collaboration of the heads of the departments and offices concerned, and the programme deserved the full support of the General Assembly.

51. The question of productivity was most important and was, in fact, the *raison d'être* of the manpower utilization survey. However, productivity in an international organization was difficult to measure, and the survey could not be expected to produce immediate results since it involved a long-term process. Each department should, however, put greater emphasis on the application of productivity recommendations, with the assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Administrative Management Service; the entire staff of the Secretariat should participate fully in the efforts to increase production. It was the hope of his delegation that the relevant measures would be developed within the framework of the management improvement programme planned by the Secretary-General.

52. In view of the increased responsibilities of the Secretariat, it was evident that substantive redeployment of staff was required to meet new and changing requirements. The staffing increases recommended by the Service actually amounted only to 1 per cent per year. Hence they were not excessive and, in all probability, would have been much greater without the survey.

53. In conclusion, the Norwegian delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee (see A/8408/Add.14), that the Administrative Management Service had proved itself a useful internal management tool.

54. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) endorsed the views on productivity expressed by the representative of Norway.

*The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.*



*Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
FIRST COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8623 CON-  
CERNING AGENDA ITEM 35\* (A/C.5/1425)**

1. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had examined the note (A/C.5/1425) in which the Secretary-General submitted the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee (A/8623, para. 22). The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, which consisted of 91 members, required substantial support, but some reductions were possible. For instance, the Advisory Committee questioned the need for the 16 reproduction/distribution staff referred to under item 1 (a) in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's note. Savings in travel costs were also possible since some of the 15 substantive staff referred to in item 2 (a) of paragraph 3 might already be at Geneva as had been the case in the preceding year. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the estimate be reduced by \$25,000 to \$207,500.

2. The Chairman suggested that the General Assembly should be informed that, should it adopt the First Committee's draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$207,500 would be required under section 2 of the budget estimates for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE  
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT  
A/8630 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 40\*\* (A/C.5/  
1426)**

3. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had some doubts regarding the size of the staff required to support the three-member Special

\* Reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction and use of their resources in the interests of mankind, and convening of a conference on the law of the sea: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

\*\* Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and hoped that the Secretary-General would make sure that the proposed 10 Secretariat staff (see A/C.5/1426, para. 5) were in fact necessary. It did not, however, wish to amend the provision of \$39,100 recommended by the Secretary-General.

4. Mr. SATTATH (Israel) wished to put on record his delegation's objections, which had been made in detail in the Special Political Committee, with regard to the Special Committee, which was simply a tool for anti-Israel propaganda and wholly irrelevant to the true state of affairs.

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/8630, para. 11), an additional appropriation of \$39,100 would be required under section 17 of the budget estimates for 1972.

*It was so decided.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I AND III SUBMITTED BY  
THE FOURTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8616  
AND OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS CONTAINED IN  
DOCUMENTS A/L.662 AND A/L.663 CONCERNING  
AGENDA ITEM 23\*\*\* (A/C.5/1428)**

6. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) regretted that the Advisory Committee had had to consider the question at very short notice; and since the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had still to meet to finalize its programme, the Advisory Committee had been guided by past practice and experience. The expenditure of the Special Committee in 1970 had been \$108,000, and the expected expenditure for 1971 was \$110,000; the Advisory Committee therefore suggested that the amount of \$165,000 already included in the budget should be maintained on a provisional basis, on the understanding that, if the Special Committee met and adopted a programme requiring further expenditure, the Secretary-General could resort to the General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1972. If the Fifth Committee so agreed, no additional appropriation would be required at the current stage.

\*\*\* Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

7. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) expressed reservations on the statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee; he felt that the Advisory Committee had not taken into account the expanded programme of the Special Committee for 1972. Document A/C.5/1428 was not a careful representation in financial terms of the implications of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/L.662 and A/L.663 and of draft resolution III submitted by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/8616, para. 25). With regard to the estimated \$150,000, in paragraph 1 (b) of document A/C.5/1428, for a series of meetings by the Special Committee away from Headquarters, he requested confirmation from the Secretariat that, despite the statement made at the previous meeting by the Controller that a decision of the Fifth Committee, along the lines of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, might bring pressure to bear on the Special Committee not to meet away from Headquarters, financial support for such meetings, if held, would be available.

8. He also enquired where the financial implications of paragraph 3 (a) of draft resolution A/L.663, referring to information centres in southern Africa, were reflected in document A/C.5/1428.

9. Mr. COIDAN (Director, Budget Division) said, in reply, that \$10,000 had been included in the \$70,000 in paragraph 1 (c) in document A/C.5/1428 to cover the intensification of activities of the information centres. He also assured the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that, if the Fifth Committee accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation, the Secretary-General would ask the Advisory Committee for any amount required over and above the \$165,000 in order to implement any decision the Special Committee might take with regard to meetings away from Headquarters. The new post to be created in the information centre would be financed out of the \$165,000; if that was not possible, the Advisory Committee would be approached to recommend an additional appropriation under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

10. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) expressed his delegation's reservations on the estimates in document A/C.5/1428. The Advisory Committee was developing a dangerous tendency to treat African issues as matters of minor importance; the representative of Algeria had expressed the same view when making reservations on the proposed reduced appropriations for South West Africa. If the appropriation of \$165,000 were put to the vote, he would abstain.

11. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) assured the representative of Kenya that the Advisory Committee in no way treated African questions lightly. He realized that more money might be needed when the Special Committee finalized its programme and, as the Controller had said, more funds could be requested under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

12. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that the Special Committee had not yet finalized its programme and that, should the General Assembly adopt the four draft resolutions, an appropriation of \$165,000 would be required

under section 17 of the budget estimates for 1972 and that, if more funds were needed, they could be requested under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1972.

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 76

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1486th meeting)

*Progress made by the Administrative Management Service in conducting the manpower utilization survey of the Secretariat and revised estimates resulting from the survey (concluded) (A/8408/Add.14, A/8408/Add.27, A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1406)*

13. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) recalled that the Administrative Management Service had been instituted in response to the under-utilization and ineffective use of human resources and the ensuing need to deploy staff in such a way as to increase productivity and achieve the best results; 75 per cent of the Secretariat had been surveyed and the survey was to be completed by 1972. He welcomed the suggestion that United Nations information centres and UNDP offices in the same city should be integrated in order to avoid overlapping; the UNDP Resident Representative already served as director of 11 information centres; integration would be of benefit to both bodies concerned. With regard to the Service's recommendation on the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the creation of four bureaux with four new posts of Assistant Secretary-General, he pointed out that equitable geographical distribution and the requirements, under the Charter, of efficiency, competence and integrity, should be observed in filling the posts, should the General Assembly decide to establish them.

14. He shared the concern of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions over the tendency of the Administrative Management Service and the Joint Inspection Unit to concentrate on the same areas. The shift in emphasis from manpower utilization to management improvement could lead to increased duplication of work, and he therefore agreed that closer consultations should be held between the two bodies on their respective work programmes. The effectiveness of the Service clearly depended on the implementation of the recommendations, and he therefore agreed with the Advisory Committee that the Service should follow up its recommendations to ensure that they were implemented. He inquired why, in annex III of document A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, the diagram showed that 4 per cent of the Service's recommendation would not be implemented.

15. He agreed that morale, motivation, training and better communication between units were essential factors in increasing productivity. The 8 per cent increase awarded to the Secretariat staff had eliminated one area of discontent and its effect would be fully appreciated in the long run.

16. His delegation fully supported the view of the Secretary-General that the Administrative Management Service should continue on a permanent basis because it

was an important mechanism for achieving management improvement. The fact that the Service had made recommendations to increase staff did not mean that it should be abolished. Membership of the United Nations was increasing constantly and it was necessary to extend programmes to cover those new States; moreover, if the aims of the Second United Nations Development Decade were to be accomplished, more programmes and hence more staff would be required. The Administrative Management Service had taken into account those aspects of the matter and also the financial standing of the United Nations.

17. Although at the previous session his delegation had expressed reservations on the impartiality of the Service, it was now convinced that it was doing extremely useful work. It had the potential and technical know-how to modernize the Secretariat's working methods. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's positive assessment of the Service in paragraph 11 of document A/8408/Add.14. He also whole-heartedly supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

18. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation was extremely disappointed with the reports of the Secretary-General on the progress made by the Administrative Management Service in conducting the manpower utilization survey (A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2) and on the revised estimates arising from decisions based on surveys by the Service (A/C.5/1406). His delegation had hoped that the survey would lead to a redeployment of staff and a consequent increase in efficiency. Unfortunately, there was no concrete evidence in the Secretary-General's reports that such an increase had been achieved. Instead, the survey had merely resulted in proposals for considerable increases in staffing resources in the units of the Secretariat reviewed. Such an approach could be justified only if the organization and work of the Secretariat left no room for improvement. However, many delegations in the Fifth Committee, including the delegation of Saudi Arabia, had drawn attention to the inefficient utilization of staff resources, and the former Assistant Secretary-General for Public Administration, Mr. Keenleyside, had made a number of pertinent comments on the subject in an article on the United Nations published in the *Saturday Review* of 19 June 1971. Mr. Keenleyside had observed, *inter alia*, that the debate on salaries for the Professional category, at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, had revealed many disturbing facts about conditions in the Secretariat, that productivity was already low and was declining still further and that organizational chaos prevailed in the Secretariat.

19. Accordingly, his delegation believed that the Secretary-General, in his report on the progress of the work of the Administrative Management Service, should have provided the Fifth Committee with specific figures showing the savings achieved as a result of the implementation of the Service's recommendations instead of merely requesting additional appropriations in connexion with those recommendations. The work of the Service over the previous two years had cost approximately \$2 million. In addition, an amount of more than \$1.6 million would be required to implement its recommendations to date, even taking into account the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee. His delegation did not believe that that

expenditure would improve the productivity of the existing staff of the Secretariat and its organization of work. The main goal of the work of the Service should be to achieve savings rather than to increase expenditures. While his delegation could agree to additional expenditures if in the long run that would lead to savings, there was no indication that such was in fact the case.

20. His delegation would be extremely grateful to the Secretariat if, when presenting its next report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Service, it supplied specific figures of the kind he had mentioned. Member States had the right to know whether their money was properly utilized and what would be the actual improvements in the work of the Secretariat, which was sorely in need of an overhaul.

21. The main reason for the unsatisfactory results of the work of the Administrative Management Service was its insufficiently critical approach to the functioning of United Nations machinery as a whole and particularly the Secretariat, in which, as Mr. Keenleyside had remarked, there had been a tragic deterioration. Unless the Service took a more critical approach to the functioning and productivity of the Secretariat and devoted more attention to identifying areas where staff could be redeployed, its surveys would be useless and would lead only to a decline in the Secretariat's productivity and an unjustified increase in staff. His delegation could not, therefore, support the recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee based on the findings of the manpower utilization surveys conducted to date. Nor could it support the transformation of the Service into a permanent mechanism if that resulted only in a further unjustified expansion in the number of posts in the Secretariat and a further rise in expenditure. The Service would fulfil its task only if it ensured that available resources were applied to maximum effect through improved utilization of manpower, increased productivity and better management. So far, its results had been extremely disappointing.

22. Mr. SUMANTERA (Indonesia) recalled that operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution on United Nations information policies and activities (A/8531/Add.1, para. 151, draft resolution IX) which the Fifth Committee had adopted at its 1468th meeting, requested the Secretary-General to appoint to the United Nations information centres highly qualified Professional staff. The purpose of that provision was to ensure that information activities were conducted by persons expert in the information field and that information offices did not merely become an adjunct of UNDP Resident Representatives. In the light of that draft resolution, his delegation was surprised to note from table 14 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1406) that a reduction in the field establishment of OPI was contemplated. Furthermore, the summary of financial implications for the field establishment of OPI contained in paragraph 51 of that report indicated that it was planned to create three additional established posts for Information Assistants at a cost of only \$5,500; that seemed a rather meagre amount to attract even local professionally experienced staff. Finally, whereas the draft resolution just mentioned implied that field information departments would be virtually independent, paragraphs 39, 40 and 41 of the Secretary-General's report maintained

the position that United Nations information offices should operate under the auspices of UNDP Resident Representatives. He would be grateful if some light could be shed on those points.

23. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation approved of the concept of the Administrative Management Service. It hoped that the Service would continue to fulfil its mandate and that its recommendations would be fully implemented. He wished to know whether the work programme of the Service for 1972 and the time-table for its surveys would in any way be affected by the information supplied by the Controller at the 1487th meeting.

24. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina), referring to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2), said that his delegation was pleased to note from paragraph 10 that increasing emphasis had been placed on the implementation of the Service's recommendations. It also took note of the statement in paragraph 13 (b) that the Service had not had the resources necessary to complete a detailed survey of the type envisaged within a two-year period and, at the same time, to assist in implementing decisions resulting therefrom and to undertake other management tasks which were urgently required to improve the efficiency of the Secretariat. His delegation attached great importance to the work of the Service, which had so far been carried out satisfactorily, and was concerned at its lack of resources. It shared the view, expressed in paragraph 19 of the report, that the Secretariat's management problems demanded a systematic, continuous effort of management improvement, with strong involvement of the units concerned. For that reason, the Service must remain in being as long as was necessary.

25. With regard to the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.14) concerning the progress made by the Service in conducting its manpower utilization survey in the Secretariat, his delegation shared the hope expressed in paragraph 10 that the Service would in future place more emphasis on work measurement and provide work statistics indicative of output. It also endorsed the view expressed in paragraph 11 that the Service had proved itself a useful internal management tool and agreed that that assessment had been confirmed by the work it had done in the preceding 12 months.

26. His delegation had been somewhat concerned over the possible effects on United Nations information centres of integration into UNDP offices in the same city. However, its misgivings had been allayed by paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.27), which recommended that the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the staffing of the information centres should not be implemented at the current stage and that the Secretary-General should be given the opportunity of reviewing the matter with the help of the Consultative Panel on Public Information.

27. Mr. MATTHEWS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the Ghanaian representative's question concerning the possibility of overlapping between the work of the Administrative Management Service and that of the Joint Inspection Unit, said that the Service and the Unit, as well as the Board of

Auditors, kept each other regularly informed of their respective work programmes. Periodic meetings were held throughout the year both on a group and individual basis. With regard to that representative's further question concerning the non-implementation of certain recommendations of the Service, he drew attention to paragraph 12 of document A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2, which explained that the 20 recommendations in question would not be implemented either because the conditions under which they had been made had subsequently changed, or because during the implementation process the units themselves had devised acceptable solutions different from those suggested by the Administrative Management Service, or because their implementation had proved impractical.

28. With regard to the Indonesian representative's request for information concerning United Nations information centres, he did not wish in any way to prejudice the review of the question of the staffing of the centres to be conducted under the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.27).

29. The representative of the Philippines had asked whether the work programme of the Service for 1972 would be affected by the information supplied by the Controller at the 1487th meeting regarding the financial situation of the Organization. To the extent that the reductions referred to by the Controller were applied on a Secretariat-wide basis, the Service would be required to accept its fair share of the cuts. However, he hoped that the work of the Service would not be significantly delayed and that it would set the best possible example in demonstrating what could be done by absorptive capacity.

30. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly take note of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1385 and Corr.1 and 2) and of the Advisory Committee's comments thereon (A/8408/Add.27).

*It was so decided.*

31. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee, in line with the Advisory Committee's recommendations (A/8408/Add.27, para. 17), should approve revised estimates amounting to \$1,609,600 under various sections of the budget estimates for 1972 and increased income estimates of \$275,000 under income section 1.

*The revised estimates were approved by 60 votes to 9.*

*Requirements for security staff at Headquarters  
(A/8408/Add.28, A/C.5/1405)*

32. Mr. Rhodes (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, although the Secretary-General, in his report on the matter (A/C.5/1405), proposed to strengthen the security staff at Headquarters by adding posts for 33 full-time guards on a provisional basis, the total number of security guard posts would remain at the previous level of 218. The effect of the Secretary-General's proposal was merely to place on a full-time basis a number of posts previously staffed under part-time arrangements. The Advisory Committee also

noted from the Secretary-General's report that within the total manning table of 218 posts, 5 posts would be upgraded to the supervisory grade S-5 and that the total number of S-5 posts would therefore be increased from 10 to 15.

33. The Advisory Committee would have preferred to have known the outcome of the survey by the Administrative Management Service of the Office of General Services before considering the question of security staff. In the absence of that information, however, the Advisory Committee had felt bound to accept the Secretary-General's conclusion that, in the light of recent developments, there was an urgent need to strengthen security staff at Headquarters and had therefore concurred in the Secretary-General's proposals. The budgetary effect of those proposals was an additional appropriation for the financial year 1972 of \$108,000, of which \$78,500 would be incurred under section 3 of the budget estimates and \$29,500 under section 4; as against that, there would be an increase of \$16,000 in income from staff assessment under income section 1.

34. Mr. MATHESON (Canada) agreed with the view expressed in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report that a delay of a full year in the sensitive and important area of security would be unwise. The increase in United Nations membership had brought about a corresponding increase in the amount and complexity of the work of the Security Service. He hoped that the additional appropriations requested by the Secretary-General would be approved so that the United Nations security force, whose work had always been exemplary, would be provided with the resources necessary for it to perform its task.

35. Mr. FAURA (Peru) observed that the Security Service was one of the most important units in the United Nations since its work directly affected all Member States. The Secretary-General's proposals therefore deserved all possible support.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8408/Add.28, para. 4) for an additional appropriation totalling \$108,000 under sections 3 and 4 of the budget estimates for 1972, and an increased income estimate under income section 1 of \$16,000.

*The recommendations were approved by 66 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.*

*[The Committee then proceeded to consideration of agenda item 79 (see para. 73 below). The Committee later resumed consideration of agenda item 76.]*

#### *Problems concerning the United Nations Treaty Series (A/8408/Add.30, A/C.5/1407)*

37. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the problems concerning the United Nations *Treaty Series* related to the substantial backlog of unpublished treaties registered with the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter. The Secretary-General had thought it necessary to bring the whole problem before the

General Assembly at the current session, and it had been discussed in the Sixth Committee in the light not only of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1407) but also of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the programme of recurrent publications of the United Nations (see A/8362). Although the problem had been discussed, it had not been solved, as was clear from the statement by the Chairman of the Sixth Committee quoted in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8408/Add.30). The Advisory Committee recommended that, in response to the hope expressed by the Sixth Committee, the Secretary-General would submit to the latter at the twenty-seventh session, a report containing specific recommendations on how the publication of the *Treaty Series* could be rationalized and its costs reduced. In the meantime, the Secretary-General proposed that in 1972 the extra 20 volumes that were ready for printing might be issued if the additional amount of \$91,700 was provided under section 11 of the budget estimates for that year. As indicated in paragraph 8 of its report, the Advisory Committee had no objection to that course of action on the understanding that the publication of the extra 20 volumes in 1972 was without prejudice to the decisions to be taken at the twenty-seventh session. The Advisory Committee was of the opinion that, if that course of action was approved, an additional provision of \$91,700 would be required under section 11 of the budget estimates for 1972.

38. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) noted that Article 102 of the Charter required Member States to register their treaties and the Secretariat to publish them, but that it made no mention of the practical arrangements whereby they were to be published. For instance, the Charter did not state that treaties must be published in full, and consideration might therefore be given to publishing only extracts from or summaries of the less important treaties and of those which were limited in scope or duration or which had already expired. As a safeguard, States themselves would, of course, have to indicate which parts of a treaty were to be published or to provide the summaries for publication. The full text should naturally be available, either at the Headquarters of the United Nations or at its regional offices, to anyone wanting them.

39. Again, the Charter did not impose any requirement for the publication of a translation into English and French of treaties which were registered; that requirement derived only from General Assembly resolutions on the subject. There was no reason why the Secretariat should not be authorized in future to publish a translation only of essential extracts or of a summary, provided that the full translation was kept available to anyone who wanted it. As a first step, the Secretary-General might be requested to take into account the foregoing suggestions when preparing the report referred to in document A/8408/Add.30, paragraph 6.

40. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) said that the United Nations *Treaty Series* was essential to the day-to-day work of government legal departments, and such a delay in publication as was currently occurring should not, therefore, be permitted. His delegation was open to any new approach to the problem and to any rationalization of procedures, provided that the indispensability of the *Treaty Series* to Governments was borne in mind.



41. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 6 of its report (A/8408/Add.30), as well as an additional appropriation, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, in the amount of \$91,700 under section 11 of the budget estimates for 1972.

*The Chairman's suggestion was adopted by 70 votes to none.*

*Revised estimates under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 and income sections 1 and 3 (A/8408/Add.29, A/C.5/1417 and Corr.1)*

42. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1417 and Corr.1) was rather more complicated than many of the documents thus far discussed. The Advisory Committee had therefore provided the table in its report (A/8408/Add.29) in order to assist the Committee. As would be seen from that table, most of the additional expenditure requested arose from two factors, namely, changes in exchange rates and the need to strengthen the Chinese language services.

43. The main impact of changes in exchange rates was, of course, on salaries, and in that connexion a distinction must be made between the salaries of Professional staff and those of General Service staff. Since the salaries of Professional staff were expressed in dollars, revaluation had only an indirect effect on them, through post adjustments and in other ways that had been fully explained to the Committee by the Deputy Controller at the 1452nd meeting. General Service salaries were expressed in local currencies, and revaluation had a direct and immediate impact on them, so that the bulk of the increase in the estimates came under sections 3 and 4 of the budget estimates and also, of course, under sections 15, 16, 18 and 19. The rates used in calculating the effect of changes in exchange rates were set out in paragraph 4 of the report of the Advisory Committee, which had thought that they would be of interest to the Fifth Committee and would be important as a kind of a bench-mark in the event of any future changes. The fact that, as stated in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, the recent devaluation of the Chilean escudo should result in reduced dollar costs for ECLA had been taken into account when the Advisory Committee had decided to recommend a small reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate. Precise calculations were, of course, impossible.

44. The need for increased provision to strengthen the Chinese language services was self-evident. As noted in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report, it was the only item in the revised estimates which affected the manning table of the Secretariat, the latter having been dealt with by the Committee in its discussion on the Administrative Management Service.

45. The other revised estimates related to the higher costs of meetings, in connexion with which the Advisory Committee, as indicated in paragraph 7 of its report, believed that there could be a small reduction, to amounts unspent in 1971 being reappropriated, which merely meant a transfer of funds from one year to another, and to higher costs of contractual services, utilities, telephone and post-

age, which had occurred since the submission of the initial estimates.

46. For the reasons he had stated, the Advisory Committee, after examining the revised estimates, recommended an appropriation of \$4.4 million, or \$57,350 less than the amount requested by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's estimate of additional income, in the amount of \$232,000.

47. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that a decision on the revised estimates before the Committee should be postponed until the morning of Monday, 20 December. Delegations had only just received the Advisory Committee's report and needed time to consider the question, which involved sizable expenditure.

48. The CHAIRMAN said that he feared that postponement of the discussion until Monday would set back the General Assembly's work by almost half a day.

49. Mr. BROWN (Australia) agreed with the Chairman, and observed that the representative of the Soviet Union, as a member of the Advisory Committee, had had more opportunity than many others to familiarize himself with the documentation.

50. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) also agreed that it would be unfortunate to delay the work of the General Assembly.

51. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) endorsed the remarks of the representatives of Australia and New Zealand. The revised estimates were uncontroversial and quite straightforward, having resulted largely from current revaluation and the need to strengthen the Chinese language staff.

52. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that, while there was no reason why the question could not be discussed at the current meeting, the vote should be postponed until Monday to allow delegations time to read the documentation.

53. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with the representative of Poland. He would point out to the representative of Australia that he served on the Advisory Committee in his personal capacity but acted in the Fifth Committee as a representative of his Government, in which capacity his personal opinion was irrelevant.

54. The CHAIRMAN observed that, if delegations felt able to discuss the documents, they could be presumed to have read them and should be in a position to vote on them.

55. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he was sure that many delegations were in the same position as the Soviet delegation, and urged the latter to co-operate by agreeing to an immediate vote.

56. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) pointed out that document A/C.5/1417 and Corr.1 was dated 10 December and that the Advisory Committee's report consisted of only nine paragraphs. He therefore fully agreed with the representatives of Australia, New Zealand

and Ghana that the Committee should proceed to vote and should not hold up the work of the General Assembly.

57. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Socialist Republics) reiterated his delegation's willingness to discuss the question immediately, but said that he must maintain his request that the vote should be postponed until Monday morning, when it would take only a matter of minutes.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that he would formally put to the Committee the question whether it wished to vote on the revised estimates at the current meeting.

*The Committee decided by 54 votes to 11, with 6 abstentions, that a vote should be taken at the current meeting.*

59. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he must strongly protest against the Chairman's illegal action in not complying with his delegation's request for a postponement of the vote, in accordance with the rules of procedure and with established practice in the Committee.

60. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that, in view of the fact that his delegation had formally objected to any delay, he felt that the Chairman's action had been entirely in order.

61. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) said that he could not agree with the Committee's decision, and was astonished that a few minutes could not be reserved on Monday morning for a vote on the question.

62. Mr. BENDJENNA (Algeria) said that his delegation had voted in favour of an immediate decision because it felt that the Committee was in a position to vote on the documents before it.

63. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) asked whether the Director of the Budget Division could indicate how the reduction of \$57,350 recommended by the Advisory Committee would be absorbed and against what sections of the budget it would be applied.

64. Mr. COIDAN (Director, Budget Division) said that, if the recommendation was approved by the General Assembly, the Secretariat proposed to apply the following breakdown: section 2, \$3,050; section 3, \$17,700; section 4, \$4,700; section 7, \$8,000; section 15 \$10,900; section 16, \$11,500; section 18, \$1,500.

65. Mr. YEREMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) moved the adjournment of the meeting.

*The motion was rejected by 48 votes to 8, with 12 abstentions.*

66. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in view of the Chairman's violation of the procedure and practices of the Fifth Committee, his delegation would not participate in the vote on the revised estimates.

67. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve the recommendations of the Advisory

Committee, as summarized in paragraph 9 of its report (A/8408/Add.29), for an additional appropriation of \$4.4 million and an increase in income amounting to \$232,000.

*The result of the vote was 60 in favour and 1 against, with 3 abstentions.*

68. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) pointed out that the result of the vote indicated the lack of a quorum.

69. The CHAIRMAN said that the vote would be retaken at an appropriate time. He wished to explain that his reason for considering it wise to take a vote at the current meeting had been to avoid delaying the work of the Secretariat and of the General Assembly and thus causing additional expenditure. He did not believe that his action had been illegal, since there was nothing in the rules of procedure to prevent the Committee from taking a decision concerning its own procedure, and he himself had not imposed anything on the Committee.

70. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) remarked that action to bring the Committee's work to a successful conclusion must be undertaken throughout the session, and not only in the preceding few days.

71. The CHAIRMAN said that he fully agreed with the sentiment of the representative of the Soviet Union.

72. Mr. JEREMIC (Yugoslavia) suggested that the situation which had arisen at the current meeting should be mentioned in some way in the Committee's report to the General Assembly. His delegation had abstained from voting in view of the position it had taken during the current session with regard to the rationalization of procedures and the delay in issuing documents. It would fully support at the twenty-seventh session any recommendations that had already been made for improving the situation.

*[See the note appearing after paragraph 36 above.]*

#### AGENDA ITEM 79

**Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (concluded):\***  
(d) Investments Committee: confirmation of the appointments made by the Secretary-General (A/8354)

73. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (A/8354) concerning the appointment of members of the Investments Committee. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that the Committee recommended that the Assembly should confirm the appointments made by the Secretary-General, as indicated in the note, for the proposed terms of office.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 1486th meeting.



**Chairman:** Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Woschnagg (Austria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1486th meeting)

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (part II) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.53)*

1. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, observed that certain statistics relating to the first reading of the budget estimates had been omitted from part II (A/C.5/SSVI/CRP.53) of the draft report because of technical difficulties.

2. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), supported by Mr. MARRON (Spain), said that paragraph 19 of the draft report failed to reflect the view of some delegations that the United Nations bond issue should be financed according to a different scale than was applied to the budget as a whole.

3. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, said that a reference to that view would be incorporated at an appropriate place in the report.

4. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) suggested that operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution III, which appeared after paragraph 150 in the draft report, should be expanded slightly so as to make clear what the functions of the *ad hoc* committee mentioned therein would be.

5. The CHAIRMAN recalled that there had been no discussion concerning the *ad hoc* committee and that the Fifth Committee had merely endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the matter. The existing foot-note referring to the relevant report of that Committee would be sufficient.

6. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) suggested that there should be a brief recess in order to allow time for members to consider the draft report.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.*

7. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed a number of amendments to the draft

report. In paragraph 11, the words "One delegation" should be replaced by "Some delegations". In paragraph 13, the words "many delegations" should be replaced by "several delegations". In paragraph 27, the words "with the intention of allaying the apprehension" should be replaced by "after taking note of the concern". The first sentence of paragraph 31 should be amended to read: "At the 1458th meeting, the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States did not press for a vote on their proposals in view of the appeals addressed to them by some delegations in the course of the discussion."

8. Mr. STOTTLEMYER (United States of America) said that his delegation could agree to the Soviet amendment to paragraph 31.

9. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, said that he had no objections to the Soviet amendments to paragraphs 13, 27 and 31. However, according to the summary records, only one delegation had made the statement recorded in paragraph 11.

10. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the report should reflect the facts. If the Rapporteur was right in his interpretation of the summary records, the text of paragraph 11 should be retained as it stood.

11. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) proposed that, in order to reflect the facts more accurately, paragraph 11 should be amended to read: "Some delegations called for a régime of strict economy within the Organization. One delegation pointed out that . . .".

12. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, said that the Polish representative's proposal was acceptable to them.

13. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that, in the section of the report dealing with the general debate on the budget estimates for 1972, there was a distinct imbalance in the presentation of views concerning the solution of the Organization's financial crisis and the budgetary policies to be followed. He strongly urged that a reference to the document on the financial situation and on budgetary policy submitted by the Group of 77 (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.25) should be included at an appropriate point in the report. That document represented the official policy of the Group and had been submitted to the Secretary-General.

14. Much was said in the draft report about Mr. Hambro's initiative in trying to find a long-term solution to the Organization's financial crisis; however, he had subse-

quently reported to the Secretary-General that his initiative had in effect failed. The draft report should be brought up to date in order to reflect that fact.

15. It would also be appropriate to include in the report a reference to the statement made by the Controller at the 1487th meeting. He might mention that, while there were many elements in the Controller's statement with which his delegation agreed, there were also several points with which it did not agree.

16. Mr. JEREMIĆ (Yugoslavia) associated himself with the remarks made by the representative of India.

17. Mr. NAUDY (France) suggested that paragraph 87 of the draft report should be amended to include some reference to the procedural vote taken in connexion with draft resolution A/C.5/L.1063.

18. Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico) said that he shared the deep concern of the representatives of India and Yugoslavia over any restrictive measures relating to United Nations development programmes.

19. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, said that he appreciated the important point made by the representative of India and agreed that it should be reflected in the section of the draft report on the financial situation of the Organization. With regard to the French representative's suggestion, he would consult the summary records and revise the paragraph accordingly.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved part II of the draft report (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.53), as amended.

*It was so decided.*

*Revised estimates under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 and income sections 1 and 3 (concluded) (A/8408/Add.29, A/C.5/1417 and Corr.1)*

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/8408/Add.29), for an additional appropriation of \$4.4 million and an estimated increase in income of \$232,000.

*The recommendation was adopted by 79 votes to none.*

***Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services concerning the catering facilities***

22. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) recalled that at the Committee's 1431st meeting the representative of India had stated that the catering services left much to be desired and had requested a full oral report on the operation of the catering facilities.

23. There was a great deal about the catering operation which indeed left much to be desired. The basic facilities had been designed more than 20 years earlier to serve some 70 delegations and a staff about one half the size of the current one. The facilities were completely inadequate for the demands being made upon them. Because of the

need to improvise additional facilities in order to meet the requirements of the staff and others, the Administration had had to establish operations in widely dispersed areas of the building. However, all food must be prepared in, and all operations serviced out of, one central kitchen. Under the circumstances it was surprising that the facilities worked as well as they did.

24. The catering operation was directed under a policy established by the General Assembly which stated that the price structure should be so designed and adjusted that the operation taken as a whole would neither make a profit nor sustain a loss. In practice that had meant that losses sustained in the Delegates' Dining Room and the Cafeteria in recent years had largely been offset by profits from such operations as the news-stand and the sale of liquor in the bars.

25. The catering services were operated under contract by a subsidiary of the Knott Hotels Corporation, which employed the catering staff. Direct expenses and capital equipment costs were paid from revenue. Any profit accrued to the United Nations and, conversely, any loss was covered by it. The contractor received an annual fee which ranged from \$15,000 to \$20,000; thus it was clear that the contractor treated the United Nations as a special or prestige account and not as a source of major revenue. The contractor's operations were controlled by the Office of General Services with a view to providing the staff and delegations with a service geared to their particular requirements. Since, however, the contractor had no control over basic catering policy, he could not be expected to assume the risk of making a profit or taking a loss. A good illustration of the problem was the situation created when deliberative organs announced meetings on a holiday or a Saturday and appropriate catering facilities had to be provided; when, as happened all too often, the organ concerned cancelled the meeting at the last minute, the catering service incurred food losses as well as unproductive labour costs.

26. In recent years, rising food and labour costs and a decrease in the number of public visitors taking their meals in the Dining Room had necessitated higher prices and, in the Dining Room, a slight reduction in the discount for delegations. In order to avoid or at least postpone price increases, especially in the staff catering areas, efforts had been made to reduce labour costs, particularly through the introduction of self-service techniques and a shortening of the hours of operation of some activities. At the same time, in the Cafeteria, service had been speeded up, noise levels reduced and the general atmosphere of the room improved.

27. Criticism of dining facilities must always be expected, and so long as it was constructive it was welcomed and given full consideration. Critics should bear in mind, however, that the facilities were stretched to the limit and that the Secretariat was doing all it could within the possibilities open to it.

28. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that in requesting a report on the subject he had not wished to criticize the catering operation or the Secretariat but simply to receive information further to the discussion at the preceding session on catering services for the United Nations Correspondents' Association (UNCA).

29. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) expressed the hope that the Secretariat would continue to implement the agreement reached in 1970 on relations between the Secretariat and UNCA.

30. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) associated himself with the Belgian representative's remarks.

31. Mr. GUPTA (India) also associated himself with those remarks and reserved his right to revert to the matter after consulting representatives of UNCA.

#### AGENDA ITEM 84

Personnel questions (*concluded*):\*

(b) Other personnel questions (*concluded*)\*

#### *Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly\*\* (part II) (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.57)*

32. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, introduced part II (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.57) of the draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly.

33. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia), supported by Mr. FAKIH (Kenya), proposed that the debate on the question of the staff college (see 1480th meeting) referred to in paragraph 15 of the draft report should be reopened.

34. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. BENNET (New Zealand), Mr. MERIGO AZA (Mexico), Mr. REFSHAL (Norway), Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia) and Mr. BROWN (Australia) participated, the CHAIRMAN put the Liberian proposal to the vote.

*At the request of the representative of Ethiopia, a recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Algeria, Argentina, Cyprus, Equatorial Guinea, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Morocco, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

*Abstaining:* Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

*The result of the vote was 34 in favour and 34 against, with 13 abstentions. The proposal was not adopted, having failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority.*

\* Resumed from the 1485th meeting.

\*\* See the 1480th meeting.

35. Mr. MOLTOTAL (Ethiopia) noted that his delegation's affirmative vote had not been recorded by the voting machine. The addition of that vote made it clear that the establishment of a staff college was accepted in principle. If action was not taken at the current session, he felt certain that it would be at the following one.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved part II (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.57) of the draft report.

*It was so decided.*

#### FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION (*concluded*)\*\*\*

37. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that the *ad hoc* working group to be set up with the mandate described in the note by the President of the General Assembly (A/8635) would deal with the financial situation of the Organization. That situation had been very clearly described by the Controller in the statement at the 1487th meeting (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.56). In the view of his delegation, it was necessary to adopt a policy of economies and to obtain extra income. Yet the idea of restrictive measures was not very popular in the Committee, the letter from the representative of Norway to the Secretary-General (A/8497) revealed that there was little likelihood of substantial voluntary contributions, and the Controller had informed the Committee that the arrears of assessed contributions were increasing.

38. He recalled the list of voluntary contributions made to date, which appeared on page 49 of document A/8407, and noted that France should be added to the list because of the voluntary contribution announced at the beginning of the session in document A/C.5/1384. He hoped that other States would give further voluntary contributions, at least to bridge the gap until a permanent solution was found; the *ad hoc* working group would attempt to supply a formula whereby at its next session the General Assembly could solve the problem once and for all.

39. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) recalled that he had requested a statement of arrears of contributions as a second annex to document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.56.

40. Mr. TURNER (Controller) explained that the annex had not been included so as to avoid any delay in producing document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.56. If the Committee wanted such an annex it would be provided.<sup>1</sup> He must, however, be fully informed as to what exactly was requested—a statement of arrears, or a statement on the current status of contributions to the regular budget for 1971 and previous years.

41. Mr. GUPTA (India) inquired what the contents of the proposed annex would be, whether the information to be included in it was or would be available in other documents, and what the financial implications of producing the annex were.

\*\*\* Resumed from the 1487th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Subsequently circulated as document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.56/Add.1.

42. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that the annex should consist of a statement of arrears of contributions to the regular budget.

43. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the information to be included could also be found in the statement of accounts which was issued annually at each session of the General Assembly and in documents of the Committee on Contributions. If the Committee wished to know the current situation, the annex requested would be necessary. The financial implications of producing the annex would be minimal.

44. Mr. OEMANN (Denmark) agreed that the first step to be taken in dealing with the financial crisis should be to urge Member States that were in arrears to pay the outstanding amounts of their contributions. He expressed reservations on the extraordinary step, mentioned by the Controller at the 1487th meeting, of obtaining short-term loans from UNDP funds in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1341 (XIII), of 13 December 1958.

45. Mr. MATHESON (Canada) said that the United Nations had no alternative but to begin living within the limits imposed by the financial resources available. The practice of deficit financing must clearly be discontinued. He shared the reservations of the representative of Denmark about borrowing from UNDP, the more so as there was no prospect of immediate repayment. The Governing Council of UNDP might wish to consider the matter at its January 1972 session.

46. Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that his delegation, too, had reservations about possible borrowing by the United Nations from UNDP. In the first instance the matter should be very carefully considered by the Governing Council in January. His delegation also wished to place on record that it had some reservations concerning the proposal in the Controller's statement (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.56) that the net surplus of budgetary resources from 1970 and prior years should be credited to a special account or to the Working Capital Fund instead of being credited to Member States.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*



**Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).**

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (continued)**  
(for the documentation, see the 1486th meeting)

*Second reading*

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed to second reading of the budget estimates for the financial year 1972. It would be noted that several items had been included on the basis of decisions taken by the Fifth Committee under rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on appropriations which would be required should the General Assembly adopt certain draft resolutions recommended by other Main Committees. He suggested that the Committee should proceed on the assumption that the General Assembly would approve the recommendations of the Main Committees concerned; the second reading figure therefore included the appropriate amounts. Should any proposal be rejected by the Assembly, an appropriate adjustment would be made in the final figure in the Committee's report to the Assembly.

**EXPENDITURE SECTIONS**

**SECTION 1. TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

*An appropriation of \$1,449,900 under section 1 was approved in second reading by 61 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.*

**SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

*An appropriation of \$2,903,600 under section 2 was approved in second reading by 64 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

**SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES**

*An appropriation of \$96,189,160 under section 3 was approved in second reading by 62 votes to 10, with 1 abstention.*

2. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that it had been brought to his attention that, in a recent speech, one of the Under-Secretaries-General had spoken of a 50 per cent reduction in staff. It was to be assumed that only the Secretary-General was authorized to speak on matters of policy and

that he spoke with one voice. It was to be hoped that the statement would be contradicted.

**SECTION 4. COMMON STAFF COSTS**

*An appropriation of \$21,951,100 under section 4 was approved in second reading by 63 votes to 9, with 1 abstention.*

**SECTION 5. TRAVEL OF STAFF**

*An appropriation of \$2,656,100 under section 5 was approved in second reading by 60 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

**SECTION 6. PAYMENTS UNDER ANNEX I, PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 5, OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS; HOSPITALITY**

*An appropriation of \$159,000 under section 6 was approved in second reading by 73 votes to none.*

**SECTION 7. CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES**

*An appropriation of \$9,614,000 under section 7 was approved in second reading by 60 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions.*

**SECTION 8. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT**

*An appropriation of \$1,413,300 under section 8 was approved in second reading by 58 votes to none, with 13 abstentions.*

**SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND RENTAL OF PREMISES**

*An appropriation of \$6,897,900 under section 9 was approved in second reading by 64 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

**SECTION 10. GENERAL EXPENSES**

*An appropriation of \$6,037,000 under section 10 was approved in second reading by 62 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

**SECTION 11. PRINTING**

*An appropriation of \$3,376,700 under section 11 was approved in second reading by 72 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*



**SECTION 12** [*New section approved in first reading at the 1479th meeting*]. REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES

An appropriation of \$1,825,000 under section 12 was approved in second reading by 56 votes to 14, with 3 abstentions.

**SECTION 13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION; HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY SERVICES; NARCOTIC DRUGS CONTROL**

An appropriation of \$5,408,000 under section 13 was approved in second reading by 48 votes to 17, with 9 abstentions.

**SECTION 14. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

An appropriation of \$1,500,000 under section 14 was approved in second reading by 55 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions.

**SECTION 15. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

An appropriation of \$12,525,000 under section 15 was approved in second reading by 64 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

**SECTION 16. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

An appropriation of \$14,419,000 under section 16 was approved in second reading by 73 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

**SECTION 17. SPECIAL MISSIONS**

An appropriation of \$8,370,700 under section 17 was approved in second reading by 56 votes to 11, with 6 abstentions.

**SECTION 18. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES**

An appropriation of \$5,398,500 under section 18 was approved in second reading by 63 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.

**SECTION 19. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

An appropriation of \$1,706,150 under section 19 was approved in second reading by 66 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

**SECTION 20** [*formerly section 12*]. SPECIAL EXPENSES

An appropriation of \$10,574,300 under section 20 was approved in second reading by 62 votes to 10, with 3 abstentions.

**TOTAL ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE**

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to approve a total appropriation of \$213,124,410 for the financial year

1972. The global reduction of \$1,250,000 approved at the 1473rd meeting had been taken into account in that figure.

*At the request of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, a recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

*Against:* Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Cuba, France, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

*A total appropriation of \$213,124,410 for the financial year 1972 was approved in second reading by 57 votes to 8, with 11 abstentions.*

4. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) said that his delegation had been prevented by unavoidable circumstances from speaking on the administrative and financial implications of some of the draft resolutions adopted by other Committees at the time they were considered by the Fifth Committee. Therefore, it wished, at the stage of the second reading of the 1972 estimates, which incorporated the cumulative financial implications of such draft resolutions, to place its attitude on record.

5. In the first place, his delegation considered that the establishment of a trust fund for South West Africa, under General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV), was illegal since it relied on another illegal resolution, namely, Assembly resolution 2145 (XXI). Neither could his delegation accept the title of the Council on South West Africa to administer such a fund in any way, as suggested in paragraph 85 of document A/8473. It followed that it did not agree that funds should be provided from the regular budget either for the fund itself or for its administration, for which \$2,900 had been provided on the basis of document A/C.5/1423. His delegation wished to record its concern that the appropriation of \$50,000 under section 20 (Special expenses) should be solely a transitional measure and should not become institutionalized, as had been the case with annual contributions to other programmes initially made on an interim basis. Finally, his delegation considered the programme to be superfluous and felt that even if it were not superfluous and illegal, funds should not be allocated to it from the regular budget.

6. Referring to draft resolutions on *apartheid* dealt with in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/1403), he said

that, for reasons often explained in the past, his delegation considered that the activities of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* could not be reconciled with the provisions of the Charter and that there was thus no legal basis for appropriating funds for those activities. Furthermore, the international touring envisaged for deputations of the Committee in 1972, mentioned in the Secretary-General's statement, could not be justified in budgetary terms when the Organization was in dire financial straits. Neither could the expenditure of \$2,700 on consultations with certain individuals mentioned in General Assembly resolution 2775 C (XXVI) be financially or legally justified.

7. The additional burden on the budget, over and above the original provision, arising from information activities envisaged by General Assembly resolution 2775 G (XXVI) amounted to \$32,100, with a possible further \$32,000. During the debate in connexion with the Office of Public Information in the Fifth Committee, there had been virtually unanimous agreement on the need for objectivity on the part of that Office in conformity with the basic policy directives laid down in General Assembly resolutions 13 (I) and 595 (VI), of 13 February 1946 and 4 February 1952 respectively. It had been frequently stated and implied that all United Nations information media should operate within that basic mandate. His delegation endorsed that point of view and could not, in the circumstances, see how the General Assembly could, in logic or conscience, authorize the expenditure called for in General Assembly resolution 2775 G (XXVI). The activities envisaged were surely propagandistic and were directed against a single Member State, in conflict with the requirements of the Charter. How, for example, could a film with the title given in paragraph 9 (a) of the 'Secretary-General's statement, conceivably be regarded as objective? So far as his delegation was aware, the film made no attempt to present the opposing point of view, which, of course, existed.

8. For those legal and financial reasons, his delegation could not support the related expenditure.

9. Mr. IZURIETA (Ecuador), referring to the proceedings of the 1486th meeting, said that his delegation's vote against the draft resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee on the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8404/Add.25) had apparently been interpreted as implying that Ecuador was opposed to the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights. That interpretation was incorrect. What his delegation objected to was the fact that the Advisory Committee had reduced the amount requested by the Secretary-General for the programme of work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group. His delegation had always been, was, and always would be in favour of anything the United Nations could do to promote the human rights of all peoples.

10. Mr. SELMECI (Hungary) said that his delegation was opposed to the increases in sections 3 and 4 of the budget, which were mainly attributable to the increases in established and provisional posts and in temporary assistance. It was also opposed to the inclusion in the regular budget, contrary to the provisions of the Charter, of items relating to the United Nations bond issue, the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, and technical programmes. It had therefore voted against the 1972 budget estimates as a whole.

11. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the income sections of the budget estimates.

## ESTIMATES OF INCOME

### INCOME SECTION 1. INCOME FROM STAFF ASSESSMENT

*The estimate of \$25,313,650 under income section 1 was approved in second reading by 74 votes to none.*

### INCOME SECTION 2. FUNDS PROVIDED FROM EXTRA-BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS

*The estimate of \$2,499,400 under income section 2 was approved in second reading by 74 votes to none.*

### INCOME SECTION 3. GENERAL INCOME

*The estimate of \$4,910,000 under income section 3 was approved in second reading by 76 votes to none.*

### INCOME SECTION 4. REVENUE-PRODUCING ACTIVITIES

*The estimate of \$3,198,600 under income section 4 was approved in second reading by 76 votes to none.*

## TOTAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME

*The total income estimate of \$35,921,650 for 1972 was approved by 76 votes to none.*

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the second reading of the budget estimates for 1972. He drew attention to foot-note 1 of document A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.58. Should the General Assembly appoint a full-time Commissioner for Namibia, an additional amount of \$46,100 would be added to the amount approved under section 17.

*The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.*

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1491st**

MEETING  
(Closing meeting)

Tuesday, 21 December 1971,  
at 11.05 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. E. Olu SANU (Nigeria).

**AGENDA ITEM 76**

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1972 (concluded)**

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the  
General Assembly (part III) (A/C.5/XXXVI/CRP.55)*

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to part III (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.55) of the draft report of the Fifth Committee and invited the Committee to vote on draft resolutions XI, on the budget for the financial year 1972, XII, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1972, XIII, on the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1972 and XIV, on the Agreement between the United Nations and the Carnegie Foundation concerning the use of the premises of the Peace Palace by the International Court of Justice, all of which were recommended in paragraph 29, to the General Assembly for adoption.

*Draft resolution XI was adopted by 55 votes to 8, with 7 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution XII was adopted by 59 votes to 10, with 1 abstention.*

*Draft resolution XIII was adopted by 59 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution XIV was adopted by 70 votes to none.*

2. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) said that his delegation wished to change its vote in favour of draft resolution XII to an abstention.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the vote could not be changed once the voting had been concluded, but that the South African delegation's statement would be included in the summary record.

4. Mr. RAMBISOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, introduced part III (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.55) of the draft report of the Fifth Committee. The last clause of the first sentence of paragraph 10 should be amended to read "an idea which they felt ran counter to one of the provisions of the draft resolution". He had introduced certain other minor drafting changes and he recommended the adoption of the draft report by the Committee.

5. Mr. MARRÓN (Spain) said that it was his delegation's understanding that paragraph 17 of the draft report did not

imply that the Committee supported the suggestions of the Controller to which it referred.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the references in question were a factual account of the Controller's statements. The Committee's adoption of the text would not imply its approval of any or all of the suggestions. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the draft report, as amended by the Rapporteur.

*Part III (A/C.5/XXVI/CRP.55) of the draft report, as amended, was adopted.*

**COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK**

7. Mr. MWAMBA (Zambia), speaking also on behalf of the group of African countries, expressed appreciation to the Chairman and officers of the Committee for their conduct of the Committee's business during the General Assembly's current session. Commending the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on its work, he said that the African Group was especially gratified by the election of the People's Republic of China to its rightful place in that Committee and by its representation in the Fifth Committee. The Assembly's current session had helped to bring to light the financial cancer affecting the Organization and he would appeal to all the States to help restore its solvency. He paid a tribute to the Secretary-General for his untiring dedication to the service of mankind.

8. Miss DIRANI (Lebanon), speaking also on behalf of the group of Asian countries, expressed gratitude to the Chairman and officers of the Committee for their conduct of the Committee's work and to the Advisory Committee and Secretariat for their valuable advice and assistance.

9. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), speaking also on behalf of the group of Western countries and other delegations, paid a tribute to the Chairman and officers of the Committee for their energy and determination in guiding the Committee's work. The General Assembly's twenty-sixth session was historic, having regard to the imminent change of Secretary-General and the restoration of the People's Republic of China to its rightful place in the United Nations. The latter event had been recognized by the enlargement of the Advisory Committee and the consequent broadening of that body's horizons.

10. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina), speaking also on behalf of the group of Latin American countries, expressed appreciation of the dedicated work of the Chairman, the officers of the Committee and Secretariat. He hoped that the General Assembly's twenty-seventh session would open

in less gloomy circumstances than those currently prevailing and that a solution would be found to the Organization's financial crisis so that it could continue, unimpeded, its progress towards the strict fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter.

11. Mr. AL-SHARAFI (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the group of Arab countries, thanked all who had helped to bring the Committee's work to a successful conclusion.

12. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, expressed appreciation to all who had contributed to the success of the Committee's deliberations.

13. Mr. DERWINSKI (United States of America), speaking on behalf of the host country delegation, paid a tribute to the officers of the Committee, members of the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for their contribution to the success of the Committee's work.

14. The CHAIRMAN thanked his fellow-officers and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for their assistance and commended the efforts of the various Secretariat officials who had helped the Committee in its work.

15. The Committee's work had been hampered considerably by the delay in issuing documentation. Because of the non-availability of documents, it had been impossible to adhere to the original schedule of work and a number of important items had been dealt with very cursorily. While some measures had been taken to improve that situation, still more were necessary if the Fifth Committee was to contribute to the rationalization of General Assembly procedures. One step which the Secretariat might take in that connexion was to prepare and issue early in the session reports which recurred on the Committee's agenda year after year, such as the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board.

16. Another difficulty confronting the Fifth Committee had been the failure of other Main Committees to apply rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in particular, the second sentence of that rule. There was a tendency for other Committees to take decisions on draft resolutions involving financial implications without first seeking the views of the Fifth Committee. Various solutions to the problem had been attempted, including joint meetings of the Fifth Committee and the Committee considering the draft resolution and consultations between the Chairmen of the two Committees, but all such procedures had proved unsuccessful. In his opinion, what was needed was to amend rule 154—possibly so as to substitute for the Fifth Committee the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. While the Advisory Committee would certainly increase its workload by such a change, its weight and authority would

be brought to bear in questions with financial and budgetary implications. In any event the current situation, in which a number of Committees totally disregarded the rules of procedure and United Nations financial practice, was entirely unsatisfactory.

17. The work of the Fifth Committee should be simplified by the introduction of programme budgeting, which he hoped would eventually lead to the establishment of a biennial budget cycle. At the current session, the general debate on agenda item 76 had consumed some three weeks of the Committee's time, and many of the views expressed had been repeated during the discussion of section 3 of the budget estimates. While it was perhaps too soon to contemplate the complete elimination of the general debate, a biennial budget cycle would at any rate ensure that it was held only once every two years.

18. The fact that the Committee had taken no final decision on the United Nations financial situation did not mean that it failed to appreciate the Organization's difficulties. However, basic differences remained concerning possible solutions to the problem. The Committee owed much to the efforts of Mr. Hambro, but it was clear from the memorandum which he had submitted that a final solution to the problem would require fundamental decisions on the part of individual Governments. He hoped that the President of the General Assembly would establish the *ad hoc* committee suggested by Mr. Hambro.

19. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) thanked the Committee for its confidence in the Advisory Committee and the Chairman for his close co-operation. He was not sure that he welcomed the Chairman's suggestion that the Advisory Committee might be given an expanded role under rule 154 of the rules of procedure. However, the Committee would of course consider the suggestion, should it meet with the approval of the General Assembly at a future session.

20. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria), Vice-Chairman, thanked all who had contributed to the success of the Committee's work. The Chairman's statement concerning the way in which the Fifth Committee might resolve its difficulties had indicated possibilities which in his view would need to be explored in coming years.

21. Mr. RAMBISSOON (Trinidad and Tobago), Rapporteur, thanked his fellow-officers, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and members of the Secretariat who had helped the Committee in its work and paid a tribute to the spirit of accommodation shown by delegations. He hoped that the future work of the Committee would benefit from the ideas outlined by the Chairman.

22. The CHAIRMAN declared that the Committee had completed its work for the twenty-sixth session.

*The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.*