



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. EL-HOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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

CONTENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. PYOTR M. MASHEROV, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

AGENDA ITEM 96: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
(continued)

AGENDA ITEM 91: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)

Services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from
extrabudgetary resources (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. PYOTR M. MASHEROV, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

1. The CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Pyotr M. Masherov.
2. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thanked the Chairman for his expressions of sympathy, which he would see were transmitted to the Byelorussian Government and people and to Mr. Masherov's family.

AGENDA ITEM 96: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
(continued) (A/35/32 and Add.1; A/C.5/35/12)

3. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the control and limitation of documentation contained in document A/C.5/35/12, drawing attention to the recommendation in paragraph 9 of that report that the General Assembly should confirm the continued applicability of resolution 34/50, discontinuing the provision of summary records for subsidiary organs of the General Assembly.
4. Summary records were among the most expensive documentation that the United Nations produced. But it was neither the cost of the records, nor yet any lack of qualified staff to produce them, that had led the Secretariat to lobby for the discontinuance of summary record coverage. The Organization was increasingly becoming a negotiating body, and experience appeared to show that the negotiations conducted within the United Nations were more productive when delegations, using all the other conference facilities available through the Organization, were freed from the onus of speaking "for the record" and could thus discuss matters more candidly. The practice had steadily been growing in the Security Council of holding unofficial consultations before a public meeting on any major issue, for precisely that reason. The Secretariat's goal was to make the Organization more effective in terms not of paper produced but of agreements reached.
5. The fact that matters discussed in subsidiary bodies eventually found their way into official reports submitted to the General Assembly and were discussed in plenary meetings or one of the Main Committees, all of which would and should continue to have records of their proceedings, ensured that delegations' positions would be properly reflected for historians, Governments and the general public who wished to follow the course of a particular issue or discuss the United Nations. Moreover, tape recordings were made of all but the most confidential meetings, and they, too, could be used to check on the views that delegations had expressed.
6. Rather than take a decision itself on the exceptions to the discontinuance of summary record coverage requested by certain bodies, the Secretariat would prefer the matter to be referred to an intergovernmental body on account of the political and other considerations that might be involved.

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7. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee on Conferences had had a certain amount of success over the past three years in drawing attention to the alarming state of United Nations conference activities. Relative order had been imposed on departures from the approved calendar of meetings, and the principle that no such departure should entail additional budgetary appropriations had become firmly established. Overprogramming was coming into more widespread use, and steps were being taken to limit the volume of United Nations documentation.

8. But the General Assembly's chief concern, in setting up the Committee on Conferences, had been to check the uncontrollable and expensive proliferation of meetings, conferences and sessions held by United Nations bodies. One of the Committee's tasks was to hold down the number of special conferences held each year to a minimum, while its other chief responsibility was to allocate conference resources among the main areas of United Nations activity in accordance with the importance attached to each by the Charter. In fact, the Committee on Conferences had avoided tackling those questions. It was absurd that delegations which, in the Fifth Committee, expressed their dismay at the rapid growth in United Nations conference activities should then announce to the Committee on Conferences that the very idea of any kind of limitation on the number of conferences or meetings the United Nations held was, in principle, unacceptable to them. Such inconsistency on the part of a specific group of States was the main reason why the Committee on Conferences not only had not accomplished its principal task but had not even begun to do so. Instead, the Committee had confined itself to matters of secondary importance falling generally within the powers of the Secretariat, and as a result little had been done to check the increase in the amounts that Member States spent on conference activities.

9. If the General Assembly was to extend the Committee's mandate for a further three years, it must at the same time unambiguously state what it expected the Committee to do. His delegation intended to submit an appropriate draft resolution to the Fifth Committee for consideration.

10. As for the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/35/32 and Add.1), his delegation was generally disposed to approve it and adopt the draft resolution it contained. Before that, however, it desired clarification on two points concerning the draft guidelines on the preparation, organization and servicing of special conferences of the United Nations, recommended by the Committee on Conferences for adoption (chap. VIII). First, it would like an assurance from the Secretariat that paragraph 20 of the guidelines would not be so interpreted as to prevent delegations from reading out any communications from heads of State or Government which they received after the opening of a conference. Second, it required an assurance that paragraphs 11 (b) and 13 of the draft guidelines did not imply any discrimination against any of the working languages and in that connexion it would like to be informed about the prevailing practice for the publication of documents in the working languages. It reserved the right to return to the point, depending on the reply it received.

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(Mr. Vislykh, USSR)

11. In conclusion, he endorsed the views and recommendations on the control and limitation of documentation contained in document A/C.5/35/12.

12. Mr. FALL (Mauritania) expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Committee on Conferences to improve the preparation, organization and servicing of United Nations conferences and ensure the most efficient use of the conference resources and documentation that the Organization could provide. The Committee should continue to work along those lines.

13. His delegation welcomed the new decision on the control of documentation proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/35/12 but pointed out that, even after the discontinuance of summary records for subsidiary bodies the previous year, documents had continued to be issued too late, in some languages, to be of any use. His delegation was prepared to approve the resumption of summary record coverage, however, for those bodies that had requested it.

14. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the most important accomplishment of the Committee on Conferences over the past year had been its adoption of guidelines on the preparation, organization and servicing of special conferences of the United Nations; his delegation urged that those guidelines, together with the recommendation on the convening of special conferences, should be formally adopted. In that connexion, it looked forward to the submission of the draft standard rules of procedure for special conferences of the United Nations which were currently under preparation; they should save a great deal of time by doing away with the discussions on procedure that were currently a feature of the early days of any special conference.

15. The Chairman of the Committee was to be praised for his contacts with the Chairmen of subsidiary bodies on the question of conference resources wasted because meetings started late, ended early or were cancelled. It would be desirable to reduce the over-all number of meetings held by subsidiary bodies, but that, of course, would require the co-operation of the bodies concerned.

16. In view of the need for continued control over documentation, his delegation supported the suggestion that the Secretary-General should provide an explanation for any delay in the submission of documentation in any of the official languages. It would be willing to entertain suggestions on ways of enforcing document processing procedures so as to ensure that documents were available on time in all languages. Similarly, it wished resolution 34/50 on summary records for subsidiary organs of the General Assembly to remain in effect and to apply not only to the bodies which had functioned without summary record coverage previously, but also to any bodies established in the future, unless the General Assembly made a specific exception.

(Mr. Pedersen, Canada)

17. Speaking as Rapporteur, he remarked that delegations must indeed read attentively the documentation they were provided with, rather than merely profess to have done so, if the Fifth Committee's debates were to be of high quality. He suggested that each delegation should help to cut down on documentation by bringing the sets of documents they received at their Missions to the conference room with them, rather than amassing complete new sets from the documents booth.

18. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that his delegation was guided by a concern to avoid all wastage of conference services resources and to ensure the optimum efficiency of the United Nations system without adversely affecting essential ongoing activities.

19. His delegation agreed with the departures from the calendar of conferences authorized by the Committee on Conferences (A/35/32/Add.1, paras. 9 and 10). There was room for improvement in the wording of recommendation 7 in French.

20. His delegation had some difficulty in accepting as it stood the draft resolution on special conferences recommended by the Committee on Conferences for adoption by the General Assembly. In particular, the preambular paragraph was not sufficiently balanced. That did not mean, however, that his delegation was not in favour of controlling expenditure on special conferences and limiting the duration of preparatory work in connexion with such conferences. The decision to convene a special conference was not something arrived at lightly; it was taken because a direct response was required to a situation in which the conventional machinery was powerless to deal with a pressing problem. Moreover, special conferences, which aimed at universal participation, helped to heighten public awareness of problems that were traditionally dealt with in ivory towers.

21. His delegation hoped that a speedy solution to the problem of documentation would be found and that it would be consistent with the decisions already taken by the Committee on the matter.

22. Mr. BROTODININGRAT (Indonesia) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the fact that the Committee on Conferences had managed to present a report that was within the desirable limit of 32 pages and at the same time to prove that a concise report could be rich in information and valuable recommendations.

23. His delegation was prepared to endorse recommendation 1 of the Committee on Conferences, on overprogramming. In a situation in which one third of the time allotted to United Nations bodies was wasted, an overprogramming rate of 20 per cent could certainly help to eke out scarce conference resources. However, while overprogramming had proved effective in attenuating the negative impact of cancellations of scheduled meetings, it was less effective in dealing with the problem of the late starting and early ending of meetings. In fact, there was little that the Secretariat could do; only the bodies themselves could prevent further wastage in that area.

24. On the subject of the planned and actual duration of the sessions of subsidiary organs, he noted that any suggestion that the length and cycle of the

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(Mr. Brotodiningrat, Indonesia)

sessions of subsidiary organs should be reviewed had so far met with reluctance, if not resistance. As the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences had pointed out, there had been little response on the part of the Chairmen of various organs to his request for co-operation in the carrying out of such a review. The lack of response, while regrettable, was understandable from a psychological point of view, because it was natural for the Chairman of a subsidiary organ to attach special importance to that body. It was unfortunate, however, that some Chairmen seemed to think that the importance of their respective bodies was reflected in the length of their sessions. That attitude constituted a serious obstacle to any restructuring of the existing pattern of conferences, and efforts, therefore, should be made to change it.

25. His delegation considered the General Assembly's decision at the preceding session to dispense with summary records for all but two of its subsidiary bodies for an experimental period of one year, and the similar decision taken by the Economic and Social Council, to be a bold step taken by Governments with a view to alleviating the tremendous burden of documentation. It had been extremely difficult to convince delegations of the necessity of dispensing with summary records, and it was the expectation that the document situation would thereby be substantially improved that had finally induced them to make such a sacrifice. Unfortunately, the over-all situation with regard to documentation did not seem to have improved. While the Secretariat believed that it was too early to assess the positive impact of the experiment, the experimental period would soon be coming to an end and the Fifth Committee would have to decide on the course to be followed in the future. His delegation could agree to extending the experimental period for another year only if a clear explanation of why a period of one year was considered not sufficient to have the expected impact was provided and if an assurance was given that during the second year the expected impact would indeed be felt.

26. In view of the fact that special conferences had become an important feature of the activities of the Organization, his delegation agreed that there was a need for the General Assembly to establish standard guidelines for the preparation, organization and servicing of special conferences. It therefore favoured recommendations 3, 4 and 5 of the Committee on Conferences. It should be stressed, however, that it was not part of the mandate of the Committee on Conferences to determine whether or not a special conference should be convened. That was the prerogative of the international community itself.

27. With regard to the possible need for readjustment in the calendar of conferences for 1981, in particular in connexion with the possible convening of global negotiations at Headquarters, his delegation felt that it was wise to anticipate at the technical level every conceivable possibility so that, if need be, adjustments in the calendar could be made easily and without any major disruptions.

28. His delegation was firmly convinced of the positive role played so far by the Committee on Conferences and did not share the view that, without the power to

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(Mr. Brotodiningrat, Indonesia)

establish a quota system, the Committee's efforts were doomed to failure. Although the Committee had not, so far, been totally successful in eliminating all short-comings in the area of conference services, it was his delegation's conviction that without the help of the Committee the situation would be even worse than it was.

AGENDA ITEM 91: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)Services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources (continued) (A/35/7/Add.2; A/C.5/34/21)

29. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was concerned at the continuing tendency to increase the amounts from the regular budgets of United Nations bodies that were illegally diverted to technical co-operation programmes. In a single year, according to figures appearing in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/684), the excess of support costs over reimbursement had increased by more than 15 per cent. His delegation could never agree with the notion that the United Nations was supposed to bear a part of the costs of extrabudgetary activities from the regular budget. Such a proposition contravened Article 17 of the Charter and General Assembly resolution 210 (III), requiring specialized agencies to reimburse the United Nations for services provided. Other organizations should be provided with services free of charge only where that would not entail additional budgetary appropriations. Technical assistance should be funded exclusively on a voluntary basis, and the United Nations should be fully reimbursed by any organization it provided with services. For that reason, his delegation did not agree with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/35/7/Add.2), since using the methodology adopted by the Secretary-General, the United Nations would not be reimbursed for any indirect expenditure relating to the provision of services.

30. Paragraphs 13 to 15 of the Advisory Committee's report amounted to an endorsement of the Secretary-General's proposal that the United Nations should partially cover the costs of technical co-operation programmes from the regular budget. UNDP and the other organizations financed from extrabudgetary funds should fully reimburse the United Nations for its outlays.

31. On the other hand, his delegation supported the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 24 and, in particular, paragraph 25 of its report. Establishing extrabudgetary posts without first ensuring that firm resources were available to maintain them was inadmissible. The practice of transferring posts paid for out of voluntary contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations was inconsistent with the effective use of the organization's staff resources which continued, in the main, to be under utilized. The result was an unjustified increase in both the United Nations budget and the financial burden borne by Member States. The Soviet Union would continue to withhold from its assessed contribution to the United Nations budget the portion intended to finance such posts. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would refrain from further proposals to transfer to the regular budget posts currently funded from voluntary sources,

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(Mr. Palamarchuk, USSR)

and would take steps to carry out the General Assembly's decisions on increasing the effectiveness of the Secretariat staff and making use of internal resources to finance new United Nations activities. The practice of offering permanent contracts for extrabudgetary posts was, likewise, totally unacceptable.

32. Finally, his delegation could not agree with the Advisory Committee's endorsement of the proposal, contained in document A/C.5/34/21, paragraph 5, as it was in favour of continuing to consider the issue as a separate topic.

33. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that, with regard to reimbursement for services in support of the administrative structure of extrabudgetary activities, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the methodology adopted by the Secretary-General, as outlined in paragraphs 6 to 12 of his report (A/C.5/34/21), was pragmatic and should continue to be applied. It also supported the Advisory Committee's view that the current system of administering reimbursement resources should be continued, since the primary aim should be to strengthen the system of administrative and financial control rather than to change the presentation of the budget.

34. His delegation attached particular importance to the provision of services in support of technical co-operation programmes. It had therefore followed closely the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Support Costs and of the UNDP Governing Council itself. He noted with satisfaction that the Governing Council had reached a conclusion on the matter at its June session. He endorsed, however, the observation made by the Advisory Committee at the thirty-second session that any recommendation to modify the existing arrangements for the reimbursement of support costs should take fully into account the position of the executing agencies and the fact that the General Assembly had a central role to play in that regard in view of its responsibilities under Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter. The paramount consideration in dealing with support costs should be to reduce the over-all level of such costs, rather than to transfer them from UNDP to the regular budget of the United Nations and other executing agencies.

35. Reimbursement for support provided to extrabudgetary substantive activities was the newest aspect of the question and the least significant in terms of the resources involved. His delegation took it, therefore, that guidelines for the utilization of such resources had not yet been developed. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that reimbursements received for that category of services should continue to be handled totally outside the regular budget.

36. He had no objection to the Secretary-General's intention not to submit further reports on the question of United Nations services to extrabudgetary activities, unless otherwise requested or in the event of major changes in circumstances, and instead to include the required information in future programme budget proposals.

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(Mr. Kuyama, Japan)

37. His delegation attached considerable importance to the question of procedures for the creation of extrabudgetary posts and looked forward to the issue of an administrative instruction dealing with that matter by the newly-established Financial Management and Control Systems Unit.

38. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) recalled that the General Assembly had started its consideration of the budgetary arrangements for the services provided in support of the administrative structure of extrabudgetary activities and substantive activities financed by extrabudgetary funds at its thirtieth session, when it had requested the Secretary-General to include in his progress report on the 1976-1977 programme budget to the thirty-first session proposals regarding a more equitable distribution of the costs of services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary funds and the method to be used, where necessary, in making adjustments in the appropriate sections of the programme budget. Four years had gone by and numerous reports had been submitted. No one could accuse the Committee of having rushed into over hasty conclusions. On the contrary, there should now be a strong predisposition to arrive at a conclusion, even if only on an experimental basis, for a limited period of years.

39. His delegation was, therefore, prepared to support the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the financial arrangements for both categories of support, which had been endorsed by the Advisory Committee. It did not do so enthusiastically, however, because there were arguments for and against each of the possible solutions.

40. The solution recommended by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Advisory Committee with regard to services in support of the administrative structure of extrabudgetary activities gave more weight to administrative flexibility than to close control by the General Assembly. The income from extrabudgetary organizations receiving services from the United Nations would, under the proposals made to the Committee, continue to be paid into an extrabudgetary account, which would be used to finance posts directly associated with the service provided. That arrangement, it was claimed, made for flexibility in matching the supply of services to a fluctuating demand. It was also the existing system, and the Advisory Committee endorsed the view of the Secretary-General that what was necessary was not to change the presentation of the budget but rather to refine and strengthen the system of administrative and financial control.

41. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's conclusions, but wished to add that, since direct control by the General Assembly was being bypassed, it was the responsibility of the Advisory Committee to keep a close watch on the way posts were created or abolished under the system and on the pricing of services and the income which resulted from them. He endorsed in particular the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the establishment of all extrabudgetary posts at the D-1 level and above for which the approval of an intergovernmental organ was not required should be subject to the concurrence of the Advisory Committee, which would report its action in that regard to the General Assembly. His delegation trusted that the Advisory Committee would bear in mind the need generally to report

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(Mr. Stuart, United Kingdom)

on the system of control to the General Assembly through its examination of the biennial budget.

42. His remarks applied equally to the second and less important category of services in support of substantive activities financed by extrabudgetary funds, for which, in the light of his comments on the larger category, his delegation believed that reimbursements should continue to be handled totally outside the regular budget.

43. The Committee was faced with a problem all the possible solutions to which had advantages and disadvantages. He urged that it should decide in favour of the existing system, subject to the maintenance of a close watch by the Advisory Committee through its biennial scrutiny of the programme budget proposals.

44. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) observed that Article 1 of the Charter mentioned co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and that the United Nations had conceded the principle that part of the support costs for extrabudgetary activities should be borne by the regular budget. The Secretary-General rightly considered that the legislative organs of the Organization had responsibility for deciding on the apportionment of costs between the regular budget and extrabudgetary sources. In the light of those considerations, the United Nations must continue to provide support to technical co-operation programmes carried out within its framework. His delegation was encouraged by the thorough consideration which the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat had given to the problem since 1975 and by the fruitful exchange of views which had taken place. The proposals put forward by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee were well thought out and his delegation was prepared, on the whole, to agree to them.

45. When the General Assembly had first taken up the question of support by the United Nations to technical co-operation programmes in 1975, it had also considered the question of the provision of direct technical co-operation by the United Nations. His delegation believed that, in dealing with the question of support for technical co-operation, consideration should continue to be given to that matter.

46. With regard to support for programmes financed from extrabudgetary resources, a distinction should be made between programme support and overheads. While legislative organs had the power to create posts in connexion with extrabudgetary programmes, the transfer of such posts to the regular budget should be subject to control by the Advisory Committee. As to the percentage of support costs to be borne by the United Nations, his delegation had no objection to maintaining the existing percentage or even increasing it. The administration of the various accounts in which reimbursements were kept was, in the view of his delegation, an internal matter for the secretariats concerned.

47. The main point with regard to technical co-operation was to provide resources on an assured basis. It was essential to take a long-term view of technical co-operation activities. It was to be hoped that co-operation between extrabudgetary programmes and funds and the United Nations would continue to be strengthened in future.

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48. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) expressed his delegation's approval of the system of reimbursement currently in use, which gave the Secretary-General the necessary flexibility to respond to changing conditions. Since there were insufficient funds available from extrabudgetary resources to meet all the support costs, especially for backstopping of projects related to technical co-operation among developing countries, the provision of some support costs from the regular budget was acceptable.

49. He requested clarification from the Secretariat as to whether overhead costs for UNDP were always reimbursed at the 14 per cent flat rate. He further inquired: what the effect would be on certain specialized agencies if the Intergovernmental Working Group on Support Costs were to recommend a change in the percentage agreed by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ); who determined whether the cost-sharing for the administrative staff of UNDP was equitable; whether there was any limit on the level of posts created under extrabudgetary resources; and what would happen with respect to posts previously financed from extrabudgetary resources when the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) became a specialized agency.

50. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) expressed the view that extrabudgetary resources needed to be built up, particularly for technical co-operation programmes which required large sums of money. His delegation fully supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to reimbursement for services in support of the administrative structure, since that would release more funds to be used for programmes. He awaited the clear guidelines on the administration of reimbursement resources.

51. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) said that, with the agreement of the representative of the Philippines, he would reply to the question on reimbursement of overhead costs for UNDP when the Committee took up the proposals of the Governing Council of that body on the subject.

52. Referring to the inquiry from the representative of Italy about the information contained in annex II to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/35/7/Add.2), he explained that it was not the intention of the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly any proposal that the posts of staff holding permanent contracts should be transferred to the regular budget. The reason why so many of the posts providing services to UNDP in the form of programme support were held by staff with permanent contracts was because they were of long standing. It would be wrong to prevent the Secretary-General from appointing someone on a permanent contract to any particular post, whether financed from extrabudgetary resources or from the regular budget; he must have flexibility to fill vacancies with suitable candidates. Moreover, there was no limitation on the level of the posts created. The posts listed in that annex went up to the D-2 level. The effect of the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 24 of its report would be to tighten control, and he did not envisage its creating any insoluble difficulties. The Secretary-General would undoubtedly seek the guidance of the Advisory Committee should any problem arise.

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(Mr. Ruedas)

53. As far as UNIDO was concerned, its status as an executing agency for UNDP would not be affected when it became a specialized agency.

54. The determination of an equitable level of reimbursement in cost-sharing with UNDP involved judgement and was made through consultations between UNDP and the Secretary-General. The apportionment would vary a little depending on the type of services concerned, but it could be assumed that the fact that the two organizations reached agreement meant that each was satisfied that the costs had been shared equitably.

55. He could assure the representative of Japan that the administrative instruction to which he had referred would be approved before the end of 1980.

56. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed to the Committee the adoption of a draft decision reading: "The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to submit reports on services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources."

57. The CHAIRMAN said that he would like to incorporate that draft decision with his own proposal, namely that the Fifth Committee should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/21) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/35/7/Add.2) and that it should endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee.

58. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) drew attention to an apparent contradiction between the statement contained in paragraph 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee to the effect that the Secretary-General would not submit further separate reports, and the request in the draft decision proposed by the Soviet Union.

59. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) proposed that the Committee's endorsement should extend to paragraphs 28 and 29 of the Advisory Committee's report.

60. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) clarified that the question of future reporting by the Secretary-General was referred to in paragraph 28 of the Advisory Committee's report. He said that the point at issue was whether the Secretary-General should submit reports on a continuous basis, as he had in the past, or whether all of the relevant material should be included in future programme budget proposals. If the Committee wished to continue receiving separate reports, then it should adopt the Soviet proposal. If not, the recommendation contained in paragraph 28 which, if the Committee adopted the Chairman's proposal, would be noted, would be adequate. With respect to the proposal by the Philippine delegation, he said that there was no necessity to endorse paragraph 29 of the Advisory Committee's report.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that if it was the intention of the Soviet Union to refer to reports of the Advisory Committee then there would be no conflict.

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62. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that his delegation fully supported the Chairman's proposal that the Committee should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee, and that it should endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 24 of document A/35/7/Add.2. However, he wished to add to that proposal a request to the Secretary-General to continue submitting reports on the subject because, as the representative of Canada and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had pointed out, under the terms of paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/21) information on services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources would be reflected in future programme budget proposals through expanded explanatory material. He was afraid that members might lose their way searching for that material in the four or five volumes of the proposed programme budget. It would be more logical and reasonable if the Secretary-General continued to provide separate reports.

63. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) said that he hoped the programme budget would not expand from its present two volumes to five. He requested clarification from the representative of the Soviet Union as to whether it was his intention that the Secretary-General's report should be submitted every two years in accordance with the normal biennial budgetary period, or annually. Consideration might perhaps be given to including the report in the proposed programme budget as an annex, so that it would not get lost in a mass of figures.

64. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was not his intention to request an annual report. He would, however, prefer a separate report rather than an annex to the proposed programme budget. He would welcome the views of other delegations as to the best solution.

65. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) protested at the Chairman's failure to give him the floor earlier on a point of order. He observed that the discussion seemed to have turned into a dialogue between the Secretariat and one delegation.

66. He expressed his delegation's support for the idea of a separate report given that the situation was still evolving. A further exchange of views would be required on the conceptual approach and other aspects of the question before a final decision could be taken.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.