

UNITED NATIONS

General  Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

FIFTH COMMITTEE  
42nd meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 7 March 1995  
at 3.30 p.m.  
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/49/SR.42  
13 March 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Revised estimates under sections 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 8, 15, 24 and 28 and income section 1 (continued) (A/49/7/Add.10; A/C.5/49/44)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/C.5/49/44 and to the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) contained in document A/49/7/Add.10. He also reminded the Committee that in section IV of resolution 49/219 the General Assembly had decided, inter alia, to consider the remaining proposals of the Secretary-General at the resumed forty-ninth session on the basis of the report of the Advisory Committee.

2. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the elimination of activities related to apartheid, as contained in sections 3A, 3C and 24 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, were summarized on pages 1 and 2 of document A/C.5/49/44. A total of \$9,163,800 had been appropriated for activities related to apartheid under those three sections, of which an estimated \$3,435,100 had been spent in 1994. The projected savings therefore amounted to \$5,728,700. The Secretary-General had proposed that some of those savings should be used for activities benefiting African countries, as well as for some of the urgent needs of the Department of Political Affairs. The \$2,885,800 proposed for redeployment to that Department was to be used for providing continued support for Security Council sanctions committees, and additional resources as necessary for the Special Envoy to Afghanistan. Moreover, five Professional and five General Service posts in the former Centre against Apartheid were to be redeployed to strengthen various Africa-related functions, as explained in paragraphs 67 to 69 of the report. For peace-keeping operations under section 4, it had been proposed that one D-1 post should be permanently redeployed from the Department of Political Affairs to the Africa Division of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. The \$1,005,100 indicated under section 8 (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) was to be used in part to strengthen the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (NADAF) and in part to continue measures to combat desertification. An amount of \$119,700 was to be redeployed from section 3 to section 15 (Economic Commission for Africa) in order to provide support for the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). The \$483,300 included under section 24 (Public information) would allow four Professional and two General Service posts to be retained in the Department of Public Information (DPI) to provide increased radio coverage of United Nations activities relating to Africa, as explained in paragraphs 101 to 103 of the report.

3. In the earlier part of the session, the General Assembly had already approved the continuation of the temporary posts for the servicing of the Security Council sanctions committees and the provision of resources for activities relating to the New Agenda for the Development of Africa. Action had yet to be taken by the Assembly on the remainder of the Secretary-General's

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proposals. The Advisory Committee had reviewed and endorsed those proposals in its eleventh report (A/49/7/Add.10).

4. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that experienced staff represented a valuable resource that should be retained and redeployed within the Secretariat, instead of being lost as a result of the elimination of anti-apartheid programmes. Her delegation objected to the redeployment of an electoral assistance post to the Department of Political Affairs, and proposed that the post should be abolished instead. She noted that although in resolution 48/228 the General Assembly had accepted the level of resources recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 9 (Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis), and requested the Secretary-General to provide adequate posts for activities dealing with micro-economic issues through redeployment, her delegation wished to know why that issue had not been mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General that was before the Committee. Furthermore, her delegation felt that the redeployment of a D-1 post to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations referred to in paragraph 77 of the Secretary-General's report should remain on a provisional basis until the Advisory Committee had had sufficient time to analyse the proposal. Finally, she expressed regret that the Advisory Committee had failed to support the redeployment of resources to UNAFRI as described in paragraph 85 of the Secretary-General's report.

5. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) said that, like the Advisory Committee, his delegation regretted the absence of pertinent information clarifying the proposed redeployment of posts. It supported, however, the proposals for increasing radio coverage of United Nations activities relating to Africa as outlined in paragraph 101 of the Secretary-General's report and paragraph 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee. He also asked for clarification with regard to the proposals that remained to be approved.

6. Ms. SHEAROUSE (United States of America) said that the Secretary-General's proposals did little to enhance or enrich the activities and programmes for Africa, nor did they accurately reflect the overall priorities of the Organization. Her delegation had objections to staffing changes proposed in sections 3 and 24 of the budget, as well as the proposed use of non-post resources for section 15. The proposals should be discussed further in informal consultations.

7. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) assured the representative of Cuba that the Secretary-General was not proposing the dismissal of the staff members occupying the posts in question, but merely the elimination of the posts they currently occupied following the redeployment of those staff members to other posts where their experience and qualifications were urgently needed.

8. With regard to the Electoral Assistance Unit, he explained that in order to fulfil a legislative mandate to support the Unit, as well as cope with the increasing demand for technical electoral assistance, the Secretary-General was proposing to add one P-4 post to the activities related to the electoral assistance function, not to transfer the post from the Department of Political Affairs to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

9. The Secretary-General was not proposing the redeployment of resources to activities like micro-economic analysis, as noted in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report, because in the context of the elimination of anti-apartheid activities, the Secretary-General preferred to redeploy the associated resources to activities directly benefiting African countries. The redeployment of a D-1 post from the Department of Political Affairs to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations as proposed in paragraph 77 of the Secretary-General's report was necessary to strengthen peace-keeping activities in Africa; in paragraph 15 of its own report, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the post be retained on a provisional basis pending its review in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1996-1997.

10. The proposal to allocate \$119,700 to UNAFRI had been made in response to the clear mandate in General Assembly resolution 48/228 to carefully monitor the financial situation of UNAFRI and to propose additional funding as necessary, and also in response to the cessation of United Nations Development Programme funding for UNAFRI in 1994. The Advisory Committee had endorsed the proposal as well, and had simply invited the Secretary-General to propose criteria for determining whether such regional institutes should be funded from the regular budget.

11. In response to the representative of Algeria, he said that the Secretary-General was proposing to retain only as many posts as would be justifiable on the basis of the expected workload. For example, only 10 of 23 posts in the Department of Political Affairs were proposed for retention, as seen in paragraphs 67 to 69 of the Secretary-General's report.

12. He emphasized the "zero-based" nature of the Secretary-General's approach to the question of redeployment; once work was successfully completed, posts should be eliminated and staff redeployed as if in completely new posts.

13. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee had held 195 informal meetings during the current session, many more than in previous years and proposed that the Committee should adopt a decision taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and endorsing the Advisory Committee's recommendations as set out in document A/49/7/Add.10.

14. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria), supported by Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) and Ms. SHEAROUSE (United States of America), said that further elaboration of the clarifications and explanations that had been offered in the informal meetings were needed before a decision could be taken. The Advisory Committee had yet to respond on a number of issues, so it would be better to hold further informal consultations.

15. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia) said that in adopting General Assembly resolution 49/219, the Committee had, in effect, already adopted a number of the recommendations that had been made; his delegation was therefore prepared to adopt a decision along the lines proposed by the Chairman.

16. Mr. KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported some but not all of the proposals in the Secretary-General's report. Taken together,

however, the two reports were complementary and exhaustive; he therefore joined the Tunisian delegation in supporting the adoption of the Chairman's proposal.

17. Mr. RAMIREZ (Colombia) said that in the interests of thoroughness, his delegation favoured pursuing the discussion informally.

18. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to consider the item further in informal consultations.

19. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.