



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico)

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 93: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/31/37; A/C.5/34/44 and Corr.1, A/C.5/35/13)

1. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that his delegation appreciated the tenacious efforts made by the representative of Pakistan in seeking a solution to the so-called short-term deficit of the United Nations, but thought that the problem could only be solved by tackling its root cause. In fact, it was less a question of a shortage of money than an issue of principle: every Member State was obliged to pay in full its assessed contribution to the regular budget, whether or not it supported the programmes authorized by the General Assembly. That obligation was one element in the over-all solution proposed in paragraph 18 of the report of the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations (A/31/37).
2. In his statement at the 25th meeting, the representative of Pakistan had recalled that at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, when the Secretary-General had requested a doubling of the Working Capital Fund from \$40 to \$80 million, the Pakistan delegation had felt that, before resorting to temporary measures, a serious effort should be made to tackle the root of the financial crisis. The delegation of Pakistan had thus recognized, at the time, that the root of the problem was in fact the withholding of contributions by some Member States. It was with regret that he had to point out that the three solutions put forward by the representative of Pakistan elevated cash-flow difficulties above principles. The British delegation was opposed to any such measures; for it, principle must come first.
3. Mr. SLØRDAHL (Norway) said that his delegation agreed in principle with the statement of the representative of Pakistan and was willing to support his proposals for dealing with the very critical financial situation of the United Nations. However, he noted that the proposed remedies could only be put into effect for a limited period, as they did not attack the root of the problem.
4. For years, some Member States had been withholding part of their contributions for reasons of principle. However, all the peace-keeping operations, without exception, had been authorized by the Security Council and then put into operation by the General Assembly. As for the activities financed from the regular budget, the appropriations had been decided by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee. Nothing in the letter or spirit of the Charter authorized any Member of the United Nations to withhold assessed contributions. On the contrary, the Charter placed on Member States the duty to accept collective responsibility for financing peace-keeping operations. His delegation could therefore only urge those Member States which were withholding part of their contributions to pay their debts to the United Nations, thus solving a serious problem which, in the long run, would endanger programmes of vital interest to the developing countries.

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5. Mr. EL-SAFTY (Egypt) pointed out that paragraph 12 of the report of the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations (A/31/37) stated that the issues involved were interrelated and that any settlement would need to embrace all aspects of the problem. That, however, did not preclude any partial or interim solution which might facilitate further progress towards a definite comprehensive settlement. In that spirit, his delegation would like to submit some ideas to the Committee, on the understanding that the acceptance and implementation of any of those ideas would be subject to the following principles. First, it would not restrict in any way the right of any Member State to oppose any section or sections of the regular budget of the United Nations on grounds of principle or for other reasons, a point which would be duly reflected in any agreement achieved. Secondly, the implementation of those ideas would be subject to regular review. The Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee would report regularly on the matter to the General Assembly, for example every three years.

6. Having said that, his delegation would like to submit to the Committee the following eight proposals: (1) Income resulting from the United Nations operations mentioned in the budget under income section 3 (Revenue-producing activities) would no longer be refunded to Member States. (2) Every opportunity would be taken to issue commemorative stamps, coins and the like, while intensifying efforts to sell them. (3) The fees for guided tours at Headquarters would be somewhat increased. (4) Member States, especially the major contributors and countries whose balance of payments was not in deficit, would be requested to pay their assessed contributions at the beginning of the year, preferably in January, and no later than February; advance payments would be equally welcome; and the United Nations Secretariat would seek every possible avenue to derive extra income from interest on such early and advance payments. (5) Member and non-member States would be requested to consider pledging generous voluntary contributions. (6) Member States holding United Nations bonds, especially developed countries and countries whose balance of payments was not in deficit, would be requested to consider forfeiting, in full or in part, repayment of the principal and interest; a similar gesture would be expected from States which were creditors of the United Nations in some other capacity. (7) Member States which maintain that the inclusion of the regular programme of technical assistance in the regular budget was incompatible with the administrative function of the budget and which offered to pay their assessed share in their national currencies would be requested to re-examine their position in the light of the following points: that the validity of their point of view was not disputed; that their point of view was not a matter of principle but might be regarded as a matter of interpretation of the nature of the budget; and that the countries most affected by the consequences of that interpretation were developing countries, for whose sake it would be best to drop the whole argument. The Secretary-General would then be requested to accept as large a share as possible of the contributions in currencies other than the United States dollar. (8) Any additional funds resulting from the admission of new Member States should not be refunded to the other Members.

7. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services), replying to the representative of the Soviet Union, who had queried during a previous meeting the increase in the sums due to Member States under the head of the United Nations Operation in the Congo in 1956, explained that the amount of the debt was calculated in United States dollars, but at the end of each biennium the sums due to individual Member States were converted into the various currencies. Those adjustments explained the changes in the amount.

8. Replying to the representative of Italy, who had asked for a breakdown of the amount of \$24,785,897 shown in annex IV to document A/C.5/35/13 under "Interest earned, public contributions and other income", he stated that \$24,673,000 of that amount represented interest, \$84,200 represented public contributions, and \$28,300 represented other income. The difference of \$6,096,000 recorded under that heading since September 1978 comprised \$6,088,000 interest and approximately \$7,500 of donations.

9. In commenting on the specific proposals submitted by the representatives of Japan, Pakistan and Egypt, he said that he would limit himself to the purely technical aspects of the matter. In general, all the solutions which had been advanced were practicable. All that was required was for the General Assembly to decide to adopt them, naturally with the exception of the suggestion that Member States should pay their contributions more promptly. The time allowed for payment was already set out in regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations, approved by the General Assembly. In that context, he recalled that the practice of the Secretariat was to notify Member States of the amount of their contributions in the middle of January each year.

10. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the representative of France had voiced their concern, in a more or less explicit manner, as to the real extent of the financial emergency which the United Nations was experiencing. The deficit indicated in the documents before the Committee amounted to about \$226 million. If the peace-keeping operations in the Middle East were added to expenditure under the regular budget, the net total expenditure figure was approximately \$665 million each year. Thus, the deficit represented about 34 per cent of the annual expenditure of the United Nations and was by no means a mere cash-flow problem.

11. The United Nations was coping with the situation in various ways. First, there was the deficit of \$185.5 million for past or current peace-keeping operations. It comprised debts owed to Member States, which had made a goodwill gesture in accepting only partial and delayed repayment, though without officially agreeing to that course. It was difficult to imagine what the United Nations would do if those debtors demanded immediate repayment.

12. The deficit in the regular budget, amounting on 30 June 1980 to \$88.6 million, was made up of \$16.6 million transferred to a special account in respect of China's contributions, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 3049 C (XXVII), paragraph 2, and an amount of \$72 million corresponding to the unpaid contributions of various Member States. Document A/C.5/35/13, annex II, showed the breakdown of that amount into sums due under the United Nations bond issue, the regular programme of technical assistance and other budget items. As far as the bonds were concerned, taking the scale of assessments and the present level

of the sums withheld under that heading as constant, the amount unpaid would reach \$1.7 million in 1981 and \$51 million in 1990. As far as the regular programme of technical assistance was concerned, it was hoped to make more use of non-convertible currencies, and there should be no future increase in the present figure of \$16.4 million. With regard to the other sections of the budget, the major part of the \$17 million deficit related to non-payment of contributions by South Africa and to withholdings by various countries under various headings, which for two years had included withholdings for posts formerly financed from extrabudgetary funds and, since 1980, the United Nations International School.

13. The regular-budget deficit would, at any rate in the short term, continue to grow at the present rate of \$4 million to \$5 million per annum. The Organization had so far succeeded in meeting the actual deficit of \$86.6 million by drawing on \$40 million from the Working Capital Fund and the \$48.4 million representing total voluntary contributions to the special account. An increase of \$3 million to \$4 million in the special account might be expected from bank interest on the anticipated balance for 1980 and 1981. That meant that a liability of \$93 million or \$94 million in 1981 could be offset by assets of \$92 million or \$93 million, leaving a growing deficit of \$1 million or \$2 million for the coming year.

14. The data available to the Secretariat and to Member States confirmed that development. If the total of the Working Capital Fund and the special fund was placed on the credit side, and the withholdings, together with the \$16.16 million required under General Assembly resolution 3049 C (XXVII), were placed on the debit side, the difference between the two sums showed a surplus of \$12.4 million for 1972, \$11.3 million for 1973, \$9.6 million for 1974, \$6.8 million for 1975, \$7.8 million for 1976, \$3.9 million for 1977, \$3.5 million for 1978 and \$2.7 million for 1979. In 1981, a debit balance of \$200,000 was obtained. Thus, for the first time, the regular budget was in a situation of real deficit, and that deficit would increase by at least \$1 million to \$2 million per annum.

15. That did not mean that the Organization was unable to meet its debts. The requests for contributions transmitted by the Secretary-General in January 1980 amounted to \$530 million. A deficit of \$200,000 was small, and even the shortfall of \$3 million anticipated for 1981 represented less than one per cent of the total. The situation nevertheless remained difficult: there were no remaining reserves; there was, for the first time, an accounting deficit, and an uncertain period of financial juggling was being embarked upon. That situation was not in keeping either with the financial integrity or with the dignity of the Organization.

16. Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services for his statement and expressed the hope that it would be circulated in writing, at least informally, to interested delegations. It was somewhat encouraging in that it gave no apparent reason for anticipating an imminent accounting crisis, while in no way concealing the fact that serious and difficult problems might be expected in the coming years.

(Mr. Schmidt, Federal Republic
of Germany)

17. While appreciating the efforts made by delegations which had proposed specific steps to ease the Organization's financial crisis, he considered that the adoption of such measures, as temporary expedients, could in practice only delay a solution to the crisis.

18. The problem was more a political than a financial one. A growing number of delegations each year refused to accept certain General Assembly decisions. His country could not subscribe to any system which, directly or indirectly, caused the membership as a whole to bear the consequences of a refusal by some Members to pay their contributions in full. It considered that new funds should not be created to finance the deficit, bearing in mind the priority attached to programme expenditure.

19. It was encouraging to note that the Secretariat was aware of its responsibilities: the Secretary-General and his representatives were responsible for following and analysing the situation and informing the Fifth Committee of the steps that should be taken, with due regard for the views of all Member States, to restore the financial equilibrium of the Organization.

20. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that he wished to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services for his detailed and honest replies and he was pleased to note that voluntary contributions made to the special fund by various Member States, including his country, were earning interest.

21. The CHAIRMAN invited interested delegations to take part in the informal consultations initiated by the Pakistan delegation with a view to reaching a consensus on the text of a draft resolution under agenda item 93.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(continued)

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGETS OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY: REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (continued) (A/34/684; A/35/481 and Add.1)

22. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination), replying to the Polish representative, who had asked whether there were any obstacles, either in the Charter or in the relationship agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to the biennial submission by the agencies and by the Advisory Committee of their reports on administrative and budgetary questions, said that Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter established no periodicity for the consideration of the administrative budgets of those bodies. Under their relationship agreements with the United Nations, the specialized agencies submitted their annual budget estimates to the General Assembly at the same time as to their Member States. In practice, the present procedure of biennial budgeting had led those institutions to transmit their budget estimates once every two years. Legally, there was nothing to prevent the reports on

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administrative and budgetary questions of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency from being submitted every two years.

23. There were at present, however, two types of report: the report of the Advisory Committee and the annual report of ACC to the Economic and Social Council on the programme operational expenditure of the United Nations system.

24. He drew the Fifth Committee's attention to the proposals to be submitted by ACC for securing an overview of the objectives and plans of the organizations of the system in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/118, paragraph 10. Those proposals might be integrated into the present system for the formulation of reports concurrently with the programme budget presentation.

25. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said he was surprised to see that in the English version of document A/35/481, the general total of the 1981 column in table A.1 was not equal to the sum of its parts. He also asked why table B in the same document indicated that the number of established posts was growing steadily in all organizations except WHO, in which it showed a decrease.

26. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that there was a typographical error in the English version of table A.1: the United Nations figure for 1981 was \$531,594,450. As to the WHO staff, he explained that only the 1979 figure was an actual figure; the figures provided for 1980 and 1981 were indicative only, since the staff resources of WHO varied in relation to actual programme execution. The Egyptian representative could find further information on the point in paragraphs 87 and 92 of the Advisory Committee's 1979 report (A/34/684).

27. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said that he was fully satisfied with the reply made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

28. The CHAIRMAN, observing that the Committee had completed its consideration of the substantive aspects of agenda item 94, suggested that it should adopt a draft resolution in keeping with its normal practice that would be patterned on resolution 33/142 A. The first three paragraphs of the draft resolution would be the same as in the latter resolution. In paragraph 4 the General Assembly could invite IFAD to make every effort to submit its future administrative budgets or budget estimates in time to enable the Advisory Committee to include the information in its report to the General Assembly.

29. Paragraph 5 would take up the wording of paragraph 4 of resolution 33/142 A and would refer, in addition, to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

30. Lastly, in accordance with the request made by the representative of Poland, in a sixth operative paragraph the General Assembly would request the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to give greater emphasis in its future reports on administrative and budgetary co-ordination to budgetary developments in individual organizations that were of potential interest to other

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(The Chairman)

organizations and to supplement those annual reports with reports on specific problems common to the United Nations system.

31. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) expressed satisfaction at the fact that the draft resolution suggested by the Chairman reflected the exchange of views that had taken place in the Committee and said that he hoped that it could be adopted by consensus.

32. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) suggested that a reference should be included in the preambular part of the draft resolution suggested by the Chairman to earlier resolutions on administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

33. The CHAIRMAN said that the text of the resolution would be drafted along the lines of resolution 33/142.

34. Mr. SERBANESCU (Romania) stressed the importance of the paragraph that the Polish delegation had suggested should be added to the draft resolution.

35. Mr. PAL (India) said that he had no objection to the Committee endorsing the Advisory Committee's conclusions and recommendations, provided that it was absolutely clear that it was not approving the Advisory Committee's report as a whole; like a number of other delegations, his delegation had reservations to make with regard to a certain part of that document.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that the first paragraph of the draft resolution, which stated that the Assembly concurred with the observations and comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as contained in its report, should dispel the fears of the representative of India.

(b) IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE BUDGETS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.5/35/47)

37. The CHAIRMAN announced that, in order to facilitate the Committee's work and as a result of informal consultations, the Cuban delegation had decided not to submit a draft resolution on the impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system at the current session. However, it requested that that question should be included in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which should not give rise to any objections on the part of members of the Committee.

38. He therefore suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/33/47 and include in the agenda of its thirty-sixth session an item entitled "Impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system".

39. It was so decided.

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

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions, 1980 (Part I) (continued) (A/35/7/Add.5; A/C.5/33/47; A/C.5/35/23)

40. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Chile had requested a separate vote on the additional appropriations requested pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1980/129 (see paras. 23.24 to 23.31 of annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/23)). The Secretary-General was requesting an additional appropriation of \$57,600 under section 23 of the programme budget for 1980-1981. It was also indicated in paragraph 23.31 of the Secretary-General's report that the implementation of decision 1980/129 would give rise to conference-servicing requirements; however, the related costs would be considered in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs that would be submitted towards the end of the current session.

41. Mr. CULLEN (Argentina), referring to the presentation of section 23 in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General, said that the expenditure envisaged had not been allocated in accordance with the priorities established by the General Assembly, particularly in resolution 34/24 concerning the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

42. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) expressed the view that in-depth studies had already been conducted and that an adequate body of documents on the question of human rights in Chile was already available. He was surprised that the Secretariat continued to request appropriations in order to pursue study of that question.

43. Mr. MORET ECHEVARRIA (Cuba) said that he supported Economic and Social Council decision 1980/129. It was important that the international community should be informed of the human rights situation in Chile. His delegation therefore supported the approval of an additional appropriation of \$57,600, which would enable the Special Rapporteur to carry out his task.

44. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed that, as a result of the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee was recommending, in paragraph 20 of its report (A/35/7/Add.5), the approval of additional appropriations totalling \$331,600, which represented a substantial amount. Unfortunately, the Fifth Committee was frequently requested to approve additional appropriations under sections of a budget that had already been approved.

45. His delegation was opposed in principle to the approval of additional appropriations attributable to decisions adopted during the biennium. It believed that all supplementary expenditure should be financed by means of savings made in implementing the budget or by means of a redeployment of available resources. It would therefore not support the request for additional appropriations, with the exception of the appropriations requested in connexion with the question of human rights in Chile. As it had frequently stated, his delegation gave priority to political questions that fell within the Organization's competence, such as the question before the Committee.

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46. Mr. SORDO (Uruguay) supported the request made by the representative of Chile for a separate vote. He would vote against approval of an additional appropriation of \$57,600.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that he would put to the vote the request for an additional appropriation of \$57,600 under section 23 of the programme budget, attributable to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/129. He would then put the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 20 and 21 of its report to the vote, adjusted, if need be, to take account of the Committee's earlier decision.

48. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had no objection to the procedure of putting the request for an additional appropriation of \$57,600 to the vote separately but considered that it would be desirable to indicate before the vote the section of the budget under which that amount was to be included. In the interest of clarity, it should be brought to the attention of members of the Committee that the amount in question was included in the total amount of \$196,600 to be approved under section 23 that was set forth in paragraph 20 of the sixth report of the Advisory Committee (A/35/7/Add.5).

49. The CHAIRMAN replied that the amount shown for section 23 in paragraph 20 of the Advisory Committee's report would naturally depend on the outcome of the vote which the Committee was about to take. If the Committee rejected the request for an appropriation of \$57,600, that amount would be deducted from the total of \$196,600.

50. Mr. GEIGER (Chile), explaining his delegation's position, stated that he would vote against the approval of additional appropriations to finance an exceptional activity the legitimacy of which was in no way recognized by Chile. At the previous session of the General Assembly, he had already stated that, at a time when the United Nations was faced with a financial crisis which was impeding the implementation of some important programmes it was both absurd and ridiculous to waste considerable funds on an activity which was completely discriminatory. The desire to continue that activity constituted an attack on the political equality of States.

51. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that, while appreciating the political aspects of the question under consideration, he wished to confine his remarks to its technical aspects. For that reason, he endorsed the observation made by the representative of Panama who was, moreover, a member of the Advisory Committee. As a highly democratic country, Peru could not oppose an inquiry into the respect for human rights but since such an inquiry had already been carried out and had yielded the desired information, to prolong the inquiry would only further political interests. He could not approve that irregular situation and, if he correctly understood the motives of certain delegations who were supporting the approval of an additional appropriation, he would be compelled to abstain.

52. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$57,600 under section 23 was approved in first reading by 72 votes to 5, with 28 abstentions.

53. Mr. HOUNA GOLO (Chad), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his abstention should not be interpreted as a lack of commitment to human rights; in his view, the question should be examined as a whole and, however deplorable the situation in Chile might be, it should be dealt with in a non-discriminatory manner.

54. Mr. PAPENIAN (Central African Republic) said that, if he had been present during the voting, he would have abstained as his delegation had done the previous year since he believed that the situation in Chile was an internal matter and, as such, was the exclusive responsibility of the Chilean Government.

55. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) noted that, by coincidence, the same figure appeared twice; the Committee had just approved an additional appropriation of \$57,600 under section 23 and, in paragraph 20 of its report, the Advisory Committee was also recommending the allocation of \$57,600 under section 9. That fortuitous circumstance should not lead to confusion.

56. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve, in first reading, the additional appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 20 of its report (A/35/7/Add.5) (\$57,600 under sect. 9; \$22,200 under sect. 22; \$196,600 under sect. 23; and \$55,200 under sect. 28), together with an increase of \$30,700 in the appropriations requested under section 31 (Staff assessment) which would be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

57. It was so decided.

58. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if the Chairman had put the Advisory Committee's recommendation to the vote, the Soviet delegation would not have approved the additional appropriations for the reasons it had already stated.

59. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that, in conformity with its traditional stance of giving full support to the Advisory Committee, his delegation supported the recommendations in document A/35/7/Add.5 which the Committee had just approved. However, although accepting the amount of the appropriations requested, the United Kingdom delegation did not approve of the practice of requesting additional appropriations. As his delegation had already stated on two occasions since the beginning of the session, the Government of the United Kingdom believed that resources for new activities should come from savings and the redeployment of resources released by the elimination of waste. Accordingly, if additional appropriations were recommended in second reading, his delegation would have to reject them.

60. In order to avoid causing undue delay in the work of the Committee, his delegation would refrain from reiterating its views on the question of additional appropriations each time that the Committee was called upon to consider the financial implications of new activities. While continuing to support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as to the level of resources, the position which he had just outlined would remain the same with regard to any future requests for additional appropriations.

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61. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, had the Advisory Committee's recommendation been put to the vote, he would have abstained since, in his view, budgetary growth must be controlled and new activities should be financed either from the appropriations already approved or through the redeployment of existing resources. The Secretariat should make greater efforts to that end and his delegation therefore welcomed the recommendations on that matter in various paragraphs of the Advisory Committee's report.

62. Referring to section 23 (1) in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/23), which dealt with Economic and Social Council decision 1980/133 concerning the reinstatement of summary records for the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, he recalled that his delegation had voted against that decision, which did not mean that it undervalued the activities of the bodies concerned. The Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments had informed the Fifth Committee that the elimination of summary records for the Commission on Human Rights had made it possible to make considerable savings and that the Commission had employed other methods to record its work. In the view of his delegation, that practice should be continued. His delegation intended to vote against approval of the financial implications of Economic and Social Council decision 1980/133 when they were submitted to the Committee during its consideration of section 29 of the budget.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.