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FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carl C. PEDERSEN (Canada)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Financial emergency of the United Nations: report of the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/44 and Corr.1) providing an analysis of the financial situation of the United Nations, consideration of which had been postponed to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly by its decision 34/435 of 17 December 1979;

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/13) updating, to 30 June 1980, the information contained in document A/C.5/34/44 and Corr.1.

3. The Committee considered this item at its 15th, 16th, 25th to 27th, 43rd, 44th and 46th meetings, held on 13, 14, 27 to 29 October, 3 and 4 December 1980. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/35/SR.15, 16, 25-27, 43, 44 and 46).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/35/L.24

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 3 December, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/35/L.24) on behalf of Ghana, Indonesia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yugoslavia and Zaire, subsequently joined by Egypt and Malawi.

5. At its 46th meeting, on 4 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.24 by a recorded vote of 76 to 10, with 10 abstentions (see para. 6). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Mozambique, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial emergency of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization, 1/

Recalling its resolutions 3049 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972, 3538 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 32/104 of 14 December 1977,

Noting with concern that the short-term deficit of the Organization has increased by more than 100 per cent since 31 December 1976,

1/ A/C.5/35/13.

Recalling the request in its resolution 32/104, addressed to all Member States, particularly those among them whose efforts can promote an accord, to negotiate with the aim of bringing about a lasting solution to the financial problems of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind that a partial or interim solution of parts of the problem could enhance the liquidity of the Organization and might facilitate the achievement of further progress towards a comprehensive settlement, which is desired by all Member States,

1. Invites the Secretary-General, after consultation with groups devoted to the conservation and protection of nature, to issue postage stamps on that subject, including, as appropriate, endangered species of the planet;
2. Decides that the provisions of regulations 5.2 and 7.1 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations shall not apply to the sale proceeds of these stamps so that a portion of the revenues so earned, after deducting the cost of producing the stamps, shall be earmarked for promoting, under United Nations auspices, the noble cause of conservation and protection of nature and endangered species;
3. Further decides that the remaining revenues shall be placed in a special account;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to give appropriate publicity to the above-mentioned postage stamps with the aim of mobilizing the support of the philatelic community and organizations devoted to the conservation and protection of nature;
5. Invites Member States to exert all possible efforts to reach a comprehensive accord and place the finances of the Organization on a sound footing and to give due consideration to the useful suggestions that were put forward during the debate on the item at its thirty-fifth session;
6. Requests the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations to keep the financial situation of the Organization under review and to report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;
7. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session:
 - (a) A progress report on the status of the project on the issuance of the special postage stamps;
 - (b) Detailed information regarding the extent, rate of increase and composition of the deficit of the Organization, as well as voluntary contributions received from Member States and other sources;
8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session the item entitled "Financial emergency of the United Nations: report of the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations".