



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico)

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

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/35/SR.34
3 December 1980
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

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

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/35/L.38 concerning agenda item 62 (a) (A/C.5/35/45)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that the Secretary-General had estimated that, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.38, an additional appropriation of \$63,000 would be required for 12 work months of temporary assistance and travel under section 5 A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. The Advisory Committee had considered the statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/45) and had discussed it with the representatives of the Secretary-General. After the Advisory Committee had taken a decision thereon, its Chairman had conferred with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, who had confirmed that the report (A/35/224) submitted by the Director-General to the General Assembly at its current session involved considerable expenditure. Both UNDP and other units of the United Nations Secretariat loaned staff to assist the Director-General with the preparation of the report. That assistance might not be available for the preparation of the annual report on operational activities requested in draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.38.

2. In the light of that information, the Advisory Committee had concluded that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation should be authorized to incur expenditures up to an amount of \$63,000 in order to be able to perform the additional tasks proposed in draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.38. If additional appropriations should prove necessary, the General Assembly would take the necessary steps when it considered the report on the performance of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

3. Mr. PAPENDORF (United States of America) asked whether the Advisory Committee had considered the possibility of absorbing within existing appropriations the expenditures relating to the additional tasks requested.

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that that matter had been considered by the Advisory Committee and had also been discussed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. The Advisory Committee considered that, although no additional appropriation was required for the time being, provision must nevertheless be made for the possibility that the Director-General might not receive all the necessary assistance from the various divisions of the United Nations and UNDP when preparing his annual report on operational activities for development. That was why the Director-General should be authorized to incur the amounts required up to \$63,000. Should additional appropriations prove necessary, a request to that effect would be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session.

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5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should take note of the oral report of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.38, no additional appropriation would be required at the current session. However, the Director-General would be authorized to incur expenditures up to an amount of \$63,000. If additional appropriations under section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 proved necessary, the General Assembly would be called upon to take a decision on that matter at its thirty-sixth session during its consideration of the report on the performance of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the understanding that, if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution in document A/C.2/35/L.38, the Secretary-General would endeavour to absorb the related expenditures within existing appropriations.

8. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany), supported by Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America), observed that many delegations attached high priority to the programmes, subprogrammes and programme elements referred to in draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.38. In the view of the Federal Republic of Germany, the additional amounts referred to in paragraph 14 of the statement of administrative and financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General should be made available through the redeployment of existing resources.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee in document A/C.3/35/L.26 concerning agenda item 69 (A/C.5/35/49)

9. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that under the terms of the draft resolution in document A/C.3/35/L.26 the Secretary-General would be requested to convene three sessions of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year between 1981 and 1985 so that it might formulate a specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year. Four officials representing four of the regional economic commissions, an official from the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters and a representative of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs were scheduled to attend the first session of the Advisory Committee in 1981. The total related costs were estimated at \$16,700.

10. The Advisory Committee had attempted to verify the accuracy of the figures in paragraph 10 of the statement of administrative and financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/49), but the information provided to it had been unsatisfactory.

11. The Advisory Committee was recommending that the cost of travel and subsistence of the official from the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters and the representative of the Under-Secretary-General for

(Mr. Mselle)

International Economic and Social Affairs, for which additional appropriations were requested under sections 6 and 8, should be financed from existing appropriations. If existing resources proved inadequate, the Secretary-General would be able to request an additional appropriation when the report on the performance of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 was considered. The Advisory Committee recognized that travel from the regional commissions tended to be expensive, and it was therefore recommending that the additional appropriations requested under sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the programme budget, or a total of \$12,300 for the cost of travel and subsistence of the four representatives of ECA, ECLA, ECWA and ESCAP should be approved.

12. The conference servicing costs, estimated at \$124,635, would be included in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session.

13. Mr. VOICU (Romania) recalled that his country together with 60 other countries representing all the geographical regions, had sponsored the draft resolution in document A/C.3/35/L.26. He noted that, according to paragraph 3 of the related statement of administrative and financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/49), the first session of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year would be convened in the first half of 1981. However, the wording used in draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.26 was "in early 1981". As had already been pointed out to the Secretariat, the sponsors of the draft resolution wanted the first session of the Advisory Committee to be held at Vienna, beginning on 22 February 1981.

14. He drew attention to an error in the Spanish and Russian versions of the second sentence of paragraph 8 in document A/C.5/35/49, where the representatives of the Advisory Committee should read "the representative of the Advisory Committee". Furthermore, the same paragraph referred to "travel" of the representative of the Advisory Committee, whereas the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.26 had envisaged "official missions", which was the expression used in the original statement of financial implications submitted to the Third Committee (A/C.3/35/L.39). He wondered why that wording had been discarded.

15. At all events, the Secretariat should make the requisite corrections to document A/C.5/35/49 before 28 November, on which date the General Assembly was due to reach a decision in plenary session on the draft resolution in question.

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly that, should it decide to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.26, additional appropriations in a total amount of \$12,300 would be required under sections 11 (\$3,400), 12 (\$3,900), 13 (\$2,700) and 14 (\$2,300) and that the conference servicing costs, estimated at \$124,635, would be included in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted at the current session.

17. It was so decided.

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18. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the request for additional appropriations totalling \$12,300 could have been avoided through savings. If the appropriations had been put to a vote, the Soviet delegation would have voted against them as a matter of principle without prejudice to its support for the draft resolution under consideration.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in document A/C.6/35/L.6/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 105 (A/C.5/35/54)

19. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that under the terms of draft resolution A/C.6/35/L.6/Rev.1 the General Assembly would decide that the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations should continue its work with the goal of drafting a work treaty on the non-use of force in international relations and would request the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the necessary facilities and services. In those conditions, the Special Committee would meet in New York for four weeks in the months of March and April 1981. On a full-costing basis, the Advisory Committee estimated the conference servicing costs at a maximum of \$420,600. Those costs would be reflected in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

20. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.6/35/L.6/Rev.1, the related conference servicing costs would amount to a maximum of \$420,600 and would be reflected in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the Assembly before the end of the current session.

21. It was so decided.

22. Mr. PAPIENDORP (United States of America) and Mr. FRASER (United Kingdom) said that their delegations had voted against the draft resolution during its consideration by the Sixth Committee and that, if a vote had been taken on the cost estimates in document A/C.5/35/54, they would have voted against them.

Arabic language services (A/C.5/35/L.19)

23. Mr. LANLOU (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution in document A/C.5/35/L.19 on behalf of its sponsors, said that, in recent years, the Arabic language had shown itself to be an essential instrument of intellectual and political evolution in international bodies and a stabilizing factor in contemporary cultural trends. During its long history, the Arabic language had often influenced the lives and the thinking of many peoples by enabling them to benefit from the knowledge of the Arab peoples and, through the latter, from the knowledge of other peoples. Because of its flexibility, Arabic was not only a language of science and logic but also a language of the humanities. Throughout the history of the peoples by whom it was spoken, Arabic had been a guarantee of

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(Mr. Lahlou, Morocco)

steadfastness and a stimulant in their struggles. By granting the Arabic language the same status as that enjoyed by its other official and working languages, the United Nations would be adding a new dimension to its activities, increasing its effectiveness and strengthening the bonds of understanding and co-operation among peoples. He expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.19 by consensus.

Honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations (A/C.5/31/2, A/C.5/33/54, A/33/7/Add.39, A/C.5/35/L.20)

24. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/33/7/Add.39) for the second time, said that the opinion expressed therein was still before the Fifth Committee and that, in the absence of a decision of principle by the General Assembly, it would be difficult for the Advisory Committee to recommend a review of the honoraria paid to the members of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Administrative Tribunal. He further reminded the Fifth Committee that it also still had before it the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/33/54 and should proceed to take a decision on that matter.

25. Mr. RULDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) said that he wished to shed new light on the subject by reading out a letter from the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee addressed to the Secretary-General. In that letter, dated 31 October 1980, the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee recalled that, in accordance with article 28, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the members of the Committee served in their personal capacity and not as representatives of governments. Since 1 January 1977, the date of the establishment of the Committee, members had received, in addition to payment of the cost of travel to and from meetings of the Committee and a per diem subsistence allowance to cover their expenses while attending meetings, an honorarium of \$1,000 per annum.

26. In order to carry out its functions under the Covenant and the Optional Protocol, the Committee had so far been meeting for eight weeks a year (in three sessions) and in 1981 was scheduled to hold three sessions, each of three weeks' duration. In addition, the members of the Committee normally attended at least one, and sometimes more, of the working group meetings, each of which lasted one week. They also had to undertake preparatory work between sessions. Consequently, the members of the Committee were called upon to devote nearly a quarter of each year to the work of the Committee and that pattern was likely to increase rather than diminish in the future.

27. The Chairman of the Human Rights Committee expressed the view that an honorarium of \$1,000 per annum for the services of the members of the Committee was unreasonable and took no account either of the time spent by members on the work of the Committee or of the importance of the Committee's responsibilities. It failed to give effect to the clear intention of article 35 of the Covenant which had been unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in 1966. The Chairman of the

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(Mr. Ruedas)

Human Rights Committee therefore requested the Secretary-General to take steps at the current session of the General Assembly to have the emoluments adjusted to a proper level. It would be reasonable to expect that they would be related to the remuneration paid to members of the Secretariat of an appropriate grade.

28. The CHAIRMAN emphasized that the letter which the Assistant Secretary-General had just read out came from the Human Rights Committee and not from the Commission on Human Rights, which was a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council. That letter would not be circulated as a separate document of the Fifth Committee.

29. Mr. YAMAMOTO (Mexico) said that his delegation subscribed to the basic principle established by the General Assembly, namely that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances and travel expenses should normally be paid to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. That being the case, the General Assembly had rightly authorized four exceptions to that principle by deciding to grant honoraria to members of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board, the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations and the Human Rights Committee.

30. Although those honoraria were of a symbolic nature and were intended merely to express the appreciation of the international community for the tireless efforts of the experts serving on those organs, it appeared urgent, in view of current inflation, to review the amounts of those honoraria since, by postponing a decision on that question, the Member States might give the impression that they attached little importance to the services of those experts. For example, the honorarium of \$1,000 which, since 1957, had been payable to the members of the International Law Commission for 10 weeks of work was an absurdly small amount.

31. As suggested by the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, the Fifth Committee should lose no time in reaching a decision which would rectify that anomaly. In that connexion, the Mexican delegation shared the Advisory Committee's view (A/33/7/Add.39, para. 3) that the General Assembly alone could decide whether the exceptions which it had authorized should be maintained, increased or abolished. In paragraph 10 of the same report, the Advisory Committee recalled that the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly had not been withdrawn, and the Assembly should therefore take a decision on that matter.

32. The Mexican delegation considered it appropriate that the four exceptions to the principle of non-payment of honoraria should be maintained and that, in view of the monetary erosion caused mainly by inflation and the devaluation of the dollar, the Secretary-General should from time to time propose an increase in those honoraria, which should be expressly authorized as an exceptional measure by the General Assembly. The Mexican delegation therefore proposed that the Fifth Committee should maintain the four exceptions already authorized and should approve, without modification, the increases proposed by the Secretary-General.

33. The CHAIRMAN explained that the proposal submitted by the Mexican delegation related to the honoraria payable as an exceptional measure to the members of the

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(The Chairman)

International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board, the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations and the Human Rights Committee. It had also been proposed that the Committee should approve the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General at the thirtieth session (A/C.5/33/54) whereby the honoraria of the Presidents or Chairmen of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations would be increased from \$2,500 to \$4,000, the honoraria of all the members of those three bodies from \$1,000 to \$1,500, the honorarium of the Vice-President of the International Narcotics Control Board from \$1,500 to \$2,500 and, finally, the honoraria of the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission from \$2,500 to \$4,000. It was understood that the approval of those increases by the Assembly would be an exceptional measure and that the Secretary-General could, also as an exceptional measure, submit at subsequent sessions proposals relating to an increase in the honoraria of the members of the bodies concerned.

34. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the question under consideration had been thoroughly debated at the thirty-third session and that the General Assembly, on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had rightly decided to leave the question as it was. However, even before it had been able to make a close study of the letter from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, the Fifth Committee was preparing to take a hasty decision on the proposal of the Mexican delegation. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had clearly explained that the recommendation submitted at the thirty-third session by that Committee remained valid. The best solution would probably be to refer the question to the Secretary-General for his comments and to seek the opinion of the Advisory Committee on those comments. At all events, the letter from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee was no justification for a hasty decision on the part of the Fifth Committee.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that there was no question of taking a hasty decision. However, the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services had indicated that the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/33/54 remained valid and, since the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had reaffirmed the recommendation made by that Committee at the thirty-third session, he could not request a new report from the Secretary-General on the subject unless an explicit decision was taken by the Fifth Committee.

36. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) requested that the proposal of the Mexican delegation should be submitted in writing to the members of the Committee irrespective of whether or not the members decided to refer the question to the Secretary-General.

37. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that the General Assembly had been considering the question for quite some time. At the thirtieth session, in 1975, the Secretary-General had submitted an initial report proposing that some honoraria should be increased. At the Advisory Committee's request, the Secretary-General had then submitted a consolidated report on the question, and the Advisory Committee had made recommendations on the report. The reason the Fifth Committee

(Mr. Stuart, United Kingdom)

had postponed its decision from one session to another was certainly not that it lacked the necessary documents on which to base a decision. The Committee was entirely in a position to take a decision at the current session without requesting a further report from the Secretary-General.

38. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) asked whether the figures given in the Secretary-General's proposals were still valid, bearing in mind the inflation that had occurred since the proposals had originally been put forward.

39. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the Philippine delegation's suggestion that the formal proposal made by the Mexican delegation should be issued as a Fifth Committee document.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that, since there was no objection to that suggestion, he would request the Mexican delegation to submit its proposal in writing.

41. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question asked by the representative of Nigeria, said that, before the members of the Committee were called upon to take a decision, the Secretariat would indicate whether the figures given in its proposal were still valid.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 78 (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1 and A/35/7/Add.12)

42. The CHAIRMAN said that, although the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/35/7/Add.12) had not yet been issued in Arabic, the Arabic-speaking delegations had agreed to consider the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 relating to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, to which member States of the Organization of African Unity attached particular importance.

43. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) requested that the meeting should be suspended to give members of the Committee an opportunity to study the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

The meeting was suspended at 12.25 p.m. and resumed at 12.40 p.m.

44. Mr. HSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee (A/35/7/Add.12) concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 recalled that under the draft resolution adopted by the Third Committee the General Assembly would approve the convening of an international conference at the ministerial level on assistance to refugees in Africa at Geneva, on 9 and 10 April 1981; that conference would be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

(Mr. Mselle)

45. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the secretariat of the Conference would be attached administratively to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. In paragraph 9, section A (i), of his report (A/C.5/35/55 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General stated that a temporary Conference secretariat of 11 posts for six months would be required; he estimated the net cost of the six additional temporary assistance posts at \$146,300 and stated that the other five posts could be financed from available resources. The Advisory Committee had asked for additional information on the functions of the Conference Secretariat, and the response received from the representative of the Secretary-General was to be found in paragraph 4 of its report.

46. Net requirements for the preparatory phase of the Conference were estimated at \$58,600 and expenditure relating to information and publicity at \$200,000. Travel of representatives of national liberation movements recognized by OAU was estimated at \$8,700, and general operating expenditures at \$15,000. Total net requirements were therefore estimated at \$432,200.

47. In paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 of its report, the Advisory Committee commented on the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General and stated why it considered that the cost of the Conference could be slightly lower than was estimated. The Advisory Committee recognized the importance of the programme of assistance to refugees in Africa to the entire region; accordingly, although it had felt that an appropriation of an additional amount of \$350,000 could have been recommended, it was prepared to recommend an additional appropriation of \$400,000, which it considered should be adequate. If that amount was not adequate, the Secretary-General would be able to request additional appropriations, using normal procedures for such requests. Conference servicing requirements, which were estimated by the Secretary-General at \$53,000, would be taken into consideration in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

48. Mr. JASABE (Sierra Leone) observed that the importance of refugee assistance programmes for the African region had been stressed in the Third Committee by a number of African delegations, and he thanked the non-African delegations which shared their concern. It was regrettable that the question had been given so little attention by the international community; information and publicity activities might remedy that short-coming. The assistance programme proposed in the draft resolution was designed to alleviate the sufferings of refugees and attack the roots of the problem from a purely humanitarian standpoint. The Third Committee had adopted the draft resolution unanimously, and he hoped that the additional appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee would be approved unanimously by the Fifth Committee.

49. Mr. AWOKOYA (Nigeria) said that he had listened carefully to the introduction by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the statement by the representative of Sierra Leone. He was not satisfied with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to reduce the amount of the additional appropriation requested from \$432,200 to \$400,000. If reference was made to the breakdown of the additional appropriation by object of expenditure, as shown on page 6 of the statement

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(Mr. Awokoya, Nigeria)

submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/55), it would be seen that the largest sums requested were for temporary assistance and public information contracts. In his view, both those objects of expenditure were crucial to the success of the programme of assistance, and the entire amount proposed by the Secretary-General should therefore be approved. The proposed Conference represented the first genuine effort of the international community to solve the problem of refugees in Africa, who constituted the vast majority of the world's refugees. He therefore wished to ask the Chairman of the Advisory Committee how he had reached the conclusion that the additional appropriation requested by the Secretary-General could be reduced by \$32,200 without affecting information activities.

50. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the question asked by the representative of Nigeria, said first that he was aware of the importance of the programme of assistance to refugees in Africa and pointed out that his own country was actively involved with the question of refugees in Africa. But that did not prevent him from examining with the greatest impartiality the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General and the justifications given for them. The members of the Fifth Committee knew that he had already had occasion to submit similar reports dealing with problems which closely affected his region (apartheid, Namibia and other questions concerning decolonization). Although those had been very sensitive issues closely affecting him, he had never hesitated to study carefully and objectively the figures proposed by the Secretary-General and to make recommendations accordingly.

51. The Advisory Committee was in the habit of studying in detail the estimates submitted before reaching a decision. In the case under consideration, if he had wished to go the whole way in the exercise of his mandate, he could have asked the Secretary-General's representative to give him a detailed estimate of expenditure, including a break-down by items of expenditure, particularly on information and publicity. But the Advisory Committee had received from the Secretary-General's representative only a simple outline and had shown indulgence in accepting it as the basis for its recommendations.

52. The cost of public information and publicity activities was estimated at \$200,000. While it acknowledged the importance of public information activities, the Advisory Committee considered that some of that cost could be met from within existing resources. With regard to the six temporary assistance posts for the secretariat of the Conference, the Secretary-General's representatives had stated that recruitment for those posts could be completed during December 1980. The Advisory Committee thought that, if those posts could be filled immediately, it would have no difficulty in approving the amount of \$146,300 indicated by the Secretary-General; however, it assumed that it would not be possible to fill the posts immediately and therefore concluded that it could deduct part of the total amount requested, without going so far as to deduct the maximum amount for delayed recruitment. With regard to the preparatory phase, which included a number of missions, the Advisory Committee considered that, should it prove possible to combine some of the proposed missions, there would be savings under staff travel costs (para. 7).

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(Mr. Mselle)

53. In those circumstances, the Advisory Committee had been faced with a choice between recommending an additional appropriation of \$350,000 or \$400,000. It had decided that an amount of \$400,000 would be appropriate. If the Secretary-General spent all of that amount and could prove that another additional appropriation was required, he could so report to the Advisory Committee and to the General Assembly.

54. Mr. FALL (Senegal) thanked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for his clear and objective explanations, and said that, although his delegation had still had some doubts before those explanations had been given, it was now convinced that the Advisory Committee's recommendation was fully justified. It was customary for the Fifth Committee to defer to the wisdom of the Advisory Committee which, in the event, had shown a liberal spirit, understanding and generosity. His delegation therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

55. Mr. AWOKOYA (Nigeria) said that he wished to assure the Committee that he had never had any intention of casting doubt on the African patriotism of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. It was solely because he considered that the question of information activities should be fully clarified that he had asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to indicate the objects of expenditure in respect of which the appropriations could be reduced.

56. The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the Advisory Committee's recommendations, proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 recommended by the Third Committee be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$400,000 would be necessary under section 21 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. An appropriation of \$30,800 would also be necessary under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1. Conference servicing costs estimated at \$53,000 would be taken into consideration in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

57. It was so decided.

58. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), expressing his view on the decision the Committee had just adopted, pointed out that the Soviet delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 in the Third Committee. He nevertheless considered that the Conference should be financed not from additional appropriations but from savings made through the redeployment of existing resources and the identification of programmes that were obsolete or of marginal usefulness.

59. Mr. PAPPENDORP (United States of America) pointed out that the United States delegation in the Third Committee had voted in favour of the draft resolution in question. In the light of the explanations given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, he hoped that the Secretary-General would do everything possible to meet the costs from available resources. His delegation, which was generally opposed to the Organization's paying for the travel of representatives of national liberation movements, had joined in the consensus that had been reached on the matter in the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.