



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd 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 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT
(continued)(A/35/34, A/35/294 and Add.1; A/C.5/35/58)

1. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that JIU had been right to adopt a broad approach to the question of translation and had been rather successful in determining how to increase translators' productivity and at the same time to reduce the amounts spent on translation by the United Nations system. He agreed that rising translation costs were due mainly to the increasing volume of documentation, which it was the responsibility of intergovernmental bodies to contain. Individual secretariats also had considerable opportunities for reducing the amount of translated material; if combined with improved workload forecasts and stricter control over the submission of documents and the translation service themselves, the kind of quota system discussed by JIU would provide an incentive to eliminate unnecessary documents, shorten others and improve document quality. His delegation could not, accordingly concur with the view of ACC that such a system would be unfeasible in United Nations circumstances.

2. Greater use of contractual translation was a prime means of cutting back translation costs. The objections voiced by ACC on account of the difficulty of ensuring high quality could be met to a great extent by the incorporation of a clause in translation contracts making translators accountable for the quality of their work and by more careful selection of contractual translators. All secretariats should aim at increasing the proportion of contractual translation, and his delegation felt that the Committee might do well to single out the JIU recommendation to that effect for endorsement. In the same context he drew attention to remarks made in paragraph 61 of the JIU report.

3. Contractual translation should also be used more widely to reduce the need for temporary staff. Such staff must be kept to a minimum, and steps must accordingly be taken to deal with the unsatisfactory and variable productivity requirements currently applying to United Nations translators. In view of the figures presented in the Advisory Committee's report on workload standards for conference servicing staff (A/35/7/Add.7) it was hardly surprising that every thousand words translated cost the Organization 200 dollars. Yet the JIU report revealed that even those indefensibly liberal standards - such as three pages of final text per typist per day - were not met in most organizations of the United Nations system. The introduction of generally applicable productivity standards that satisfied the spirit and letter of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter would make it possible to reduce spending on temporary staff to a minimum.

4. His delegation generally agreed with the Inspectors' recommendations on raising the quality of translation, including the idea of reinforcing the authority of documents control units and placing the onus of furnishing reference material upon the substantive departments concerned. It believed, however, that there was no ground for linking the authority of documents control units to the number of staff employed in them. It also doubted the efficacy of offering material incentives for learning additional languages and setting up a central

(Mr. Vislykh, USSR)

multilingual terminology unit, and agreed with the positions taken by ACC on those matters. All in all, it found the JIU report on translation to be of excellent quality and hoped that future reports by the Unit would meet the same high standard.

5. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq), referring to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on evaluation of the translation process in the United Nations system (A/35/294), said that his delegation had been particularly struck by recommendation 9 calling for a reduction in the role of revisers and their replacement by self-revision. That was a new and as yet undefined concept. Furthermore, there were no criteria by which documentation could be classified according to importance. It was apparent from paragraphs 95 and 96 of the report that the Inspectors believed that United Nations documents could be classified in two categories, one of which would continue to be revised according to current practice, whereas the other (comprising administrative and programme documents, information documents, documents for subsidiary organs, reports of subsidiary organs and summary records) could be self-revised. However, as far as his delegation was concerned, the documents in the second category were no less important than the rest. Errors were already apparent in the budget and the medium-term plan, even with revision, and there was no need to stress the importance of informational documents, the documents of subsidiary bodies, and summary records, particularly for the developing countries. Delegations would obviously suffer as a result of increased errors if revisers did not check the work, and even more corrigenda would need to be issued than normal. The concept of self-revision could not be applied in an organization such as the United Nations, which required extremely precise documentation if the prestige of its work was to be upheld.

6. Although self-revision would generate savings, it would lower the quality of documentation, and it would not be in the interests of the translators, whose problems could only be solved by means of radical reforms. In any event, whatever solutions were found would have to be applied in a spirit of equality, as any attempt to resolve the issues affecting translators by creating other more complex problems was unthinkable. The best course would be to retain the services of revisers, thereby maintaining the high standards of the Organization's official documents, and to deal with any problems in a scientific, frank manner, instead of adopting a piecemeal, interim approach. His delegation called for the deletion of recommendation 9 from the JIU report (A/35/294).

7. Mr. VICARIO (Spain) said that his delegation had already referred at the previous session (A/C.5/34/SR.36) to the problems of the career prospects of interpreters and translators. At that time, it had stressed the stringent educational and linguistic qualifications governing their recruitment, and the specialized nature of their work.

8. It was therefore pleased to see that JIU had carefully studied the translation process in the United Nations system (A/35/294) and had arrived at conclusions and recommendations which his delegation found to be of great interest. It particularly wished to stress recommendation 9, which called for a gradual increase in the number of documents to be self-revised. That could result in significant economies for the Organization - some \$4 million according to the statement made

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(Mr. Vicario, Spain)

by the Chairman of JIU. More important still, by the use of such a system it would be possible to alter, to some extent, the grading pattern for language staff, thus enhancing their career prospects. Those prospects were indeed limited, as had been demonstrated in the report of Judge Jiménez de Aréchaga. Through the Joint Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General had likewise made known his understanding and recognition of the problem.

9. His delegation was of the opinion that the matter demanded gradual, but at the same time urgent, solutions. In that connexion, it was aware of the efforts under way to make the necessary budgetary provision and believed that there was no need to request further reports from other committees, such as the Committee on Conferences, since that could cause considerable delay.

10. Paragraph 87 of the report, dealing with the physical facilities provided for translators, was particularly relevant given that the translators were working in conditions which gave real cause for concern, in some cases in overcrowded, noisy offices. An effort should be made to provide some system of separate rooms or cubicles so that translators would have the necessary quiet and privacy.

11. His delegation had requested and received information on all language services similar to that contained in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/35/18 referring to the Arabic language services. Having compared existing posts at the Professional and General Service levels in the Interpretation and Meetings and Translation Divisions, it wished to draw attention to the unfavourable situation of the Spanish translators. Measures should be taken to correct the obvious and anomalous imbalance.

12. His delegation welcomed the fact that paragraph 6 (d) of document A/C.5/35/75, dealing with the job classification and career development of language staff, incorporated some of its specific concerns with respect to translators. It could therefore go along with the recommendations of that document in respect of translators.

13. Mr. HANZAH (Syrian Arab Republic), referring to the JIU report on evaluation of the translation process in the United Nations system (A/35/294), said that that report shed light on a number of matters of which his delegation had not previously been aware. For instance, it had noted from paragraph 3 that most of the day-to-day business of the various secretariats was conducted in English and that the great majority of documents were drafted in that language. Since the documents used by the great majority of delegations were translated from English, it was obviously essential to ensure that translated documents should reflect the same level of accuracy and clarity as the originals.

14. His delegation welcomed the large number of positive points in the report, but was concerned about those parts of it relating to contractual translation and to revision. In recommendation 4, the organizations of the system were invited to make greater use of contractual translation in order to reduce costs. However, that would undoubtedly have an adverse impact on the quality of the work produced, and his delegation could not agree with such a trend.

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(Mr. Hamzah, Syrian Arab Republic)

15. It was also seriously concerned about the opinions voiced in paragraphs 88 to 102 of the report on the subject of revision. A recommendation was being made for the acceptance of the concept of self-revision, that was to say, a policy of translating documents without any revision, and it was suggested that some 60 to 80 per cent of documents should go out unrevised. In paragraph 94 of the report, JIU had mentioned that there was a risk involved; with that, his delegation agreed. It was puzzling to see that the list of documents in paragraph 96 included Fifth Committee documents. In his delegation's view, all documents should be revised, since all were of equal importance. It could not therefore support recommendation 9.

16. At the thirty-fourth session he had already referred to the problem of recruiting qualified translators, as mentioned in paragraphs 40 to 43 of the JIU report. However, in asking that effective measures should be taken, inter alia, to redress the injustices suffered by language staff in respect of career development, that did not mean that he could agree to methods being used which would lower the standard of the work produced. Traditional means should be used to enhance the career prospects of translators on the basis of seniority, increased expertise, and competence, as was the case in other departments.

17. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco), referring to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document A/35/34, expressed appreciation for the work that had been done with respect to the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development. Notwithstanding the short-comings that had been identified by JIU, the Centre had the potential to make an effective contribution to the developing world; it had done some notable work in respect of training in administration for development. Likewise, his delegation congratulated JIU on the constructive work it had done to help UNICEF improve its planning and programming. He knew that there had been some very positive and close co-operation between the Executive Director of UNICEF and JIU.

18. Turning to the report on evaluation of the translation process in the United Nations system (A/35/294), he said it was difficult to understand why an attempt had been made to link the promotion of language staff to the quality of documentation. It was impossible to agree to the kind of changes proposed without being certain that the quality of translated documents would not be affected, since the first responsibility of the Secretariat was to maintain satisfactory services, of high quality, for delegations. The matter of career prospects was of secondary concern, although he was in favour of improving career prospects for interpreters and translators. The recommendation on self-revision should not be approved until a thorough evaluation had been made of the quality of self-revised documents. Delegations alone could be the final arbiters in judging whether standards declined. It might well be that some documents were less important than others; in that case, perhaps they should be scrapped altogether. He feared that any selection between important and less important documents might be purely arbitrary and could adversely affect the Organization's work.

19. He was prepared to give the benefit of the doubt to those who had made the recommendation and appealed to those who had categorically rejected the idea of

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(Mr. Lahlou, Morocco)

self-revision to reconsider the matter carefully; but he did not feel that there should be any pressure to take a decision at the current session. Attempts were being made to force the self-revision issue as the basis for the upgrading of posts; however, it was not possible to take a decision in the space of a few days. Efforts should, indeed, be made to remedy the career problems of translators and interpreters, but not by claiming to make savings in an area to which his delegation attached the greatest importance. The best solution would be to postpone a decision until the next session.

20. Mr. RUTLEDGE (Chief Editor) said that at the preceding meeting the United States representative had cited productivity statistics which he had calculated and had asked for an explanation of the differences between his figures and those provided in the JIU report (A/35/294). The average daily output of translators and revisers in any given translation service might vary substantially from year to year depending, for example, on the proportion of new recruits to the total staff. It was only natural that it should take some time for new recruits to become fully conversant with United Nations style and practice and to reach the general productivity standards of more experienced translators. Over the years the Department of Conference Services had followed very closely the experience of translation services at the United Nations Office at Geneva and in the specialized agencies and had found that differences in productivity statistics reflected for the most part differences in statistical methods rather than actual variations. He knew of no fully trained translator or reviser who had transferred from Headquarters to Geneva or to a specialized agency, or vice versa, who had been found wanting in terms of output. Productivity figures were in general rough estimates and did not fully reflect the capacity of the individual translator.

21. With regard to the observation made by the Soviet representative concerning the output of conference typists, he indicated that a figure of 1,650 words per day was used for the specific purpose of calculating staffing requirements for conference activities and should not be mistaken for the actual output of conference typists in the United Nations. The Department of Conference Services believed that its typists, who were dedicated and highly competent, were among the best in the world. The figure reflected the average number of final pages expected from one typist working as a member of a group; typists were generally expected to produce three final pages per hour, but two typists were needed to proofread the work of three others. Moreover, each translation was typed twice, in draft and in final form. The productivity figure was also affected by the fact that time had to be spent in correcting typing errors, collating the final typed version and sending it to reproduction. Thus many of the functions performed by typists were not reflected in the statistics. When representatives of the Department of Conference Services met with the ACABQ, which generally approved of the workload standards applied by the Department, they explained such considerations in greater detail because of the unwarranted conclusions that could be deduced from productivity statistics.

22. The United States representative had also referred to the question of contractual translation, indicating that the United Nations seemed to be paying

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considerably more for such services than his own Government. It was possible that the two cases were not strictly comparable. Contractual translation was doubtless cheaper than in-house translation, but its utility to the United Nations and the specialized agencies was limited by their peculiar working conditions. It was not practicable, for example, to rely on contractual translation for the work of the General Assembly, while it was particularly appropriate for publications with no specific deadlines and documents which were submitted far in advance of the date on which they were needed. There was, in addition, the difficulty of ensuring the desired quality of contractual translations. The Joint Inspection Unit had recognized all those aspects of the problem in its report. The United Nations, for its part, was making increased efforts to cope with the increasing volume of documentation through a greater reliance on contractual translation wherever practicable. As JIU had noted, the situation for some languages was satisfactory, while for others it was difficult to find reliable outside sources of translation.

23. The question of self-revision, to which a number of delegations had referred, could be discussed further in connexion with the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/35/75. The Department of Conference Services took a keen interest in the recommendation of JIU on self-revision and considered that its report embodied a thoughtful and cautious approach to the question.

24. Mr. BERTRAND (Joint Inspection Unit) said that, although the report on evaluation of the translation process had been prepared by three members of JIU, all the members of the Unit had discussed the proposal regarding self-revision, which they regarded as perfectly reasonable and not necessarily at odds with a concern for the quality of the translation done in the system. The members of JIU understood full well the desire of delegations to have accurate translations of official documents and their concern to maintain at least the existing standards of quality. It must be borne in mind, however, that the quality of a translation was determined by two factors, namely, the competence of the translator and the degree of responsibility which the translator felt for his work. Under existing arrangements, documents were given to less experienced translators for translation and then revised by a senior member of the translation service. The arrangement was based on the assumption that translators and revisers were of unequal competence and that translators had a lesser degree of responsibility. He personally did not believe that such an arrangement was perfect or the only one possible. The competence of translators in the United Nations system was guaranteed by rigorous recruitment standards maintained by means of extremely difficult competitive examinations. The only difference between a translator and a reviser was experience and number of years in service. A system which diminished the responsibility of translators was not necessarily the best, while a system which gave full responsibility to a single individual might yield results at least as good, if not better, than the existing arrangement. In his view, it had been extremely wise to link the recommendation on self-revision (which was, moreover, to be implemented gradually and carefully, with ample latitude being given to the chiefs of the language services) with the possibility of devising an alternative career structure for translators and interpreters.

(Mr. Bertrand, JIU)

25. The Acting Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission had felt duty-bound to inform the Fifth Committee that he considered the recommendation of JIU to be unwise. He (Mr. Bertrand) took a different view and had stated to the Working Group on Personnel Questions that there was a fundamental conflict between the notions advocated by ICSC, particularly its Master Standard, and the proposals of JIU in document A/35/294. He personally believed, however, that such a link between self-revision and a more rational career structure for translators was absolutely essential.

26. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that the quality of a translation was determined by a third factor not mentioned by Mr. Bertrand, namely, that translators were human and, as such, could make mistakes. Revision was necessary to ensure that mistakes did not slip into documents issued to delegations. It was not essential, however, for the person revising a translation to be a senior translator; what mattered was that someone other than the original translator should read through each translation and catch and correct any errors.

27. With regard to the link between self-revision and proposals to improve the career prospects of translators, he had the feeling that the Secretariat had recognized the need to improve career prospects of translators and had seized upon self-revision as the means to do so since it would result in savings.

28. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note with appreciation of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit. Such action did not imply either acceptance or rejection of the recommendations of JIU.

29. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that he could support the Chairman's suggestion, provided that it was made absolutely clear that the Committee had merely considered and discussed the reports of JIU and had not taken a position on the substance of its recommendations.

30. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in the light of the explanation provided by the Chairman and on the understanding that the question of restructuring the translation services would be discussed further in connexion with the separate report submitted by the Secretary-General on that question, his delegation was prepared to support the Chairman's suggestion.

31. The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

32. The CHAIRMAN urged delegations not to repeat the arguments they had put forward during the Committee's discussion of the JIU recommendation concerning self-revision when the time came to discuss the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/35/75.

AGENDA ITEM 93: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/34/44 and Corr.1; A/C.5/35/13, A/C.5/35/L.24)

33. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.24 on behalf of the sponsors, said that, in view of the failure to reach a consensus on a comprehensive and lasting solution to the financial difficulties of the Organization, extensive consultations had been held with a view to identifying measures which might be adopted as a partial solution. As a result of those consultations, a number of delegations had felt that the measure most likely to win acceptance was for the General Assembly to designate all or part of the Organization's miscellaneous income as a special reserve to be used as a cushion against cash shortages, on the ground that it did not make sense at a time of financial crisis to distribute to Member States the profits derived from revenue-producing activities. Other States, however, had argued that, in accordance with past practice and the existing Financial Regulations, such miscellaneous income should not be denied to Member States. Draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.24 reflected the view of the sponsors that the best solution would be to promote a new revenue-producing activity that was consistent with the broad goals and objectives of the Organization and yet not subject to the provisions of financial regulations 5.2 and 7.1. They therefore proposed in the draft resolution that the Secretary-General should be invited to issue postage stamps illustrating the themes of conservation and protection of nature.

34. Paragraph 4, relating to efforts to mobilize the support of the philatelic community and organizations devoted to conservation and protection of nature, was of crucial importance. Members of the Secretariat had been consulted and the draft resolution before the Committee reflected a number of changes suggested by them. The sponsors had also contacted organizations devoted to conservation and protection of nature and had been greatly encouraged by the response received.

35. Paragraph 2 was necessary since, unless the Assembly explicitly waived the provisions of financial regulations 5.2 and 7.1, the income derived from the sale of the stamps would have to be credited to Member States. The sponsors had considered specifying in the draft resolution that 50 per cent of the proceeds should be used to promote the cause of conservation and protection of nature and endangered species, but had concluded that it would be best not to specify the percentage to be so earmarked on the understanding that it would be substantial.

36. Paragraph 5 called for new efforts to reach a comprehensive accord to place the finances of the Organization on a sound footing. It had been precisely because such efforts had not been made in the past that the General Assembly had been unable to resolve the political problems which underlay the current financial crisis and that it had to resort to the extraordinary measures proposed in the draft resolution.

37. The Negotiating Committee had not met since 1976 because its members felt that there was no basis on which negotiations could be carried out. Paragraph 6 was necessary, because, as the situation worsened, the possibility that the Negotiating Committee might find it necessary to meet could not be ruled out. Similarly,

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(Mr. Kemal, Pakistan)

because of the nature of the deficit, its rate of growth and the difficulties which lay ahead, the item should be kept on the agenda of future sessions, as provided for in paragraph 8.

38. Even if the proposed special account grew by only \$500,000 annually, it would provide tangible proof of the General Assembly's determination to come to grips with the financial emergency. Management of the funds to be earmarked for promoting conservation and protection of nature and endangered species might be conferred on UNEP, which could use them as seed money to generate larger sums.

39. Lastly, he indicated that Egypt and Malawi should be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

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

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the Second Committee in documents A/C.2/35/L.60/Rev.1, L.71, L.85 and Corr.1, and L.86 concerning agenda item 64 (b) (A/C.5/35/64)

40. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the additional appropriation of \$US 115,600 which the Secretary-General indicated would be necessary to carry out the resolutions submitted by the Second Committee comprised \$104,400 under section 1 and \$11,200 under section 28 D. A further \$10,000 in staff assessment for one P-5 and one General Service post would also have to be provided under section 31, but would be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1. A further amount not exceeding \$43,200 might be required for travel and per diem expenses for the representatives of specialized agencies, and would be requested in the context of the final performance report for the biennium 1980-1981 if such travel and per diem payments were not funded by the agencies concerned. The Advisory Committee felt that the sum of \$11,200 requested under section 28D (Office of General Services) could be absorbed within the funds with which OGS was generously endowed. It approved, however, the establishment of the two posts requested. It accordingly recommended approval of \$104,400 under section 1 and \$10,000 under section 31, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

41. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should draft resolutions A/C.2/35/L.60/Rev.1, L.71, L.85 and Corr.1, and L.86 be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$104,400 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, together with an appropriation of \$10,000 under section 31, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1.

42. It was so decided.

43. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, while his delegation supported the substance of the draft resolutions, the activities proposed entailed substantial levies on Member States. He believed that the Secretariat could absorb the cost of those activities within existing resources. Had the Chairman's suggestion been put to a vote, therefore, his delegation could not have supported it.

44. Mr. PAPERIAN (Central African Republic) expressed his appreciation to Committee members for their constructive attitude towards the draft resolutions. The assistance approved would, he hoped, help his country to overcome the financial crisis resulting from the disastrous policies of the former régime.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in document A/C.6/35/L.9 concerning agenda item 107 (A/C.6/35/68)

45. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's estimate of an amount not exceeding \$19,000 to meet the conference servicing requirements of the Second UNCITRAL Symposium on International Trade Law would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly later in the session.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should draft resolution A/C.6/35/L.9 be adopted, an amount not exceeding \$19,000 would be taken into account in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted at the current session.

47. It was so decided.

48. Mr. PAPPENDORP (United States of America) said that, in view of the minimal conference servicing costs indicated in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/35/68), an immediate undertaking that the sum would be absorbed within existing resources should have been given.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in document A/C.6/35/L.14 and Corr.1 concerning agenda item 29 (A/C.5/35/69)

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the conference servicing costs for the proposed ad hoc committee on the "drafting of an international convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries", which the Secretary-General estimated at an amount not exceeding \$429,800, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement on conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly later in the session.

50. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should draft resolution A/C.6/35/L.14 and Corr.1 be adopted, conference servicing costs not exceeding \$429,800 would be taken into account in the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly at the current session.

51. It was so decided.

52. Mr. PAPPENDORP (United States of America) said that his delegation expected the Secretary-General to absorb a very high proportion of the projected conference servicing costs within existing resources.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/35/L.75 concerning agenda item 61 (c) (A/C.5/35/70)

53. Mr. BESELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the estimated conference servicing costs of \$406,200 for the conference which, under the terms of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.75, would be convened in 1985, would be considered by the General Assembly in 1984.

54. Under paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the Trade and Development Board would establish an intergovernmental group of experts on restrictive business practices. The Secretary-General requested the establishment of one additional Professional and one additional General Service post, at a total cost of \$49,700, to assist the group in its task. The Advisory Committee accepted that request.

55. Adoption of the draft resolution would therefore entail an additional appropriation of \$49,700 under section 15, together with an appropriation of \$13,300 for staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1. Conference servicing costs not exceeding \$248,200 for 1981 would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted at the current session.

56. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the draft resolution of the Second Committee be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$49,700 would be required under section 15, together with an appropriation of \$13,300 under section 31, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1. Conference servicing costs not exceeding \$248,200 for 1981 would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly at the current session.

57. It was so decided.

58. Mr. PAPIENDORP (United States of America) said his delegation believed that the functions for which the Secretary-General had requested new posts could have been covered by reassigning functions among the 414 posts already available to UNCTAD. Had the establishment of the new posts been put to a vote, therefore, his delegation would have abstained. It likewise reserved its position on the conference servicing costs for 1981 pending information on how much of those costs could be absorbed.

59. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation felt that staff already working in the Secretariat could carry out the functions required by the draft resolution. No additional resources should be necessary. Had the proposal been put to a vote, he could not have supported it.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.