



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BROTODININGRAT (Indonesia)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on  
Administrative and Budgetary Questions:

Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

First reading (continued)

Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (A/36/6, A/36/7, A/36/38 (chaps. V and VII D)) (continued)

First reading (continued)

Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the only reduction the Advisory Committee had recommended under section 11 was an amount of \$905,100 which resulted from an increase in the turnover deduction from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. The reason was that it had been informed that as at 31 March 1981, of the 177 authorized Professional posts, 37 (namely, 20 per cent) were vacant. Similar recommendations had been made for all but one of the regional economic commissions. As he had explained to the Fifth Committee at its 8th meeting (A/C.5/36/SR.8, para. 20), the turnover deduction did not diminish the Secretariat's ability to commit additional funds if the vacancy rate in the coming biennium turned out to be lower than currently projected. He hoped that there would be no misunderstanding about that. There was no question of freezing posts. In the past, when similar cuts had been proposed on account of the high vacancy levels in some of the regional economic commissions, delegations from the regions concerned had proposed their restoration. Fortunately, he had managed to convince them that there was absolutely nothing to prevent the secretariats concerned from filling the posts. Moreover, the Advisory Committee's predictions had proved to be accurate, since the vacancy situation had not improved. In his opinion, what should concern delegations was to ascertain the reasons why the respective executive secretaries had found it so difficult to reduce the vacancy rates. Had the Advisory Committee not taken full account of the turnover deduction, it could justifiably have been asked why there was a need for further appropriations when the posts had not been filled in past biennia.

2. Mr. KIBRIA (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197, the regional commissions had been given an expanded role and greater responsibilities, which made it all the more necessary to seek the understanding of members of the Fifth Committee. One of the most important features of that resolution had been to upgrade the regional commissions to the status of main economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions. The desire of Member States for better internal co-ordination and more effective programme delivery to the developing countries had placed additional responsibilities, which could not be treated lightly, on the commissions. The Asian and Pacific region contained over half the world's population and almost nine tenths of its people were living in absolute poverty. It was a vast geographical region comprising States of all categories and sizes, with many different economic systems. The majority, however, were developing countries confronted by the common problems of steep rises in the prices of key imports, high foreign capital costs, and growing protectionism in matters of trade. Programmes therefore needed to be broad in scope, particularly since the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was the only intergovernmental forum for the region as a whole. In addition, as an executing agency for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

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(Mr. Kibria, ESCAP)

it played a co-ordinating role. Indeed, as a result of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, ESCAP was assuming an increasingly larger role as a regional centre for the whole system, not least in the follow-up work to major conferences such as those on new and renewable sources of energy, the least developed countries, and the law of the sea.

3. The dilemma was that pressures on the Commission from all sides to expand its role and functions were accompanied by constraints on resources. He did not deny that that pressure could be positive in so far as it led to a healthy reappraisal of programme effectiveness. Every attempt would, of course, be made to maximize returns on the resources at the Commission's disposal. Indeed, one of his first acts upon assuming the post of Executive Secretary had been to undertake a reappraisal of programme priorities with a view to identifying activities of marginal usefulness. However, increasing frustration resulted when there was an imbalance between needs and resources. It should be a matter of legitimate concern to the Fifth Committee that only 25 per cent of ESCAP resources for substantive and operational programmes came from the regular budget, the rest being extrabudgetary resources. He was, of course, fully aware of the prevailing sentiments with respect to the enhancement of cost-effectiveness and budgetary restraint, but every effort should be made to avoid any conflict between the need to use existing resources more effectively and that of providing the regional commissions with the means to fulfil their functions. He was therefore seeking support for the services that ESCAP was called upon to provide, on behalf of the United Nations system, in a region facing awesome economic and social problems.

4. With respect to the number of vacant posts, he was pleased to inform the Committee that seven more had been filled, and appointments were pending for a further 10. As he had only assumed his present functions some six months previously, it was not easy for him to explain why the vacancy rate had remained so high in the past. However, the procedural delays involved because of the distance from Headquarters were sometimes a source of difficulty. As far as he could see, there was no reason why the high level of vacancies should continue, given the demand on the part of Member States for ESCAP services. He therefore requested the Committee to consider restoring the turnover deduction rate to 5 per cent.

5. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that, given his Government's well-known commitment to the work of the regional commissions, especially ESCAP, it was gratifying to observe that the Advisory Committee, with one major exception, had approved the estimates under section 11. However, he was concerned about that Committee's recommendation to increase the turnover deduction, thereby reducing the proposed allocation by \$905,100. What was required in fact was a redoubling of efforts to fill the vacancies. He was pleased to hear from the Executive Secretary that some progress had been made, but he would nevertheless appreciate further information on steps taken to solve the problem.

6. As the Executive Secretary had pointed out, ESCAP had a formidable task, and yet it received only about 20 per cent of the resources allocated to the regional commissions as a whole. That was perhaps a matter on which the Committee should reflect when it came to setting priorities. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the decentralization of United Nations functions; the regional commissions were obviously the major vehicles for bringing the Organization closer to operations in the field. In that light, ESCAP

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(Mr. Quinn, Australia)

and the other regional commissions deserved greater support from the Fifth Committee for their substantive activities and programmes.

7. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) asked the Executive Secretary how many vacant posts he expected to fill before the end of 1981. Information on that subject would help the Committee to make a better informed decision on the Advisory Committee's recommendation. He also asked what percentage of activities had been funded from the regular budget over the past five years.

8. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) requested information on the current status of the Commission's role as an executing agency for operational projects, and information on any problems it might have encountered in its work with specialized agencies, particularly in the light of the increasingly active role it had been called upon to play in technical co-operation activities, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/197.

9. In addition, he requested confirmation from the representative of the Secretary-General that the redeployment of a number of posts to the management of technical co-operation activities, mentioned in paragraphs 11.11 and 11.28 of the proposed programme budget, was in fact in line with the intended strengthening of the technical co-operation function. The efforts being made by the Executive Secretary to establish programme priorities were much appreciated. In that connexion, further information was requested on the grounds for the termination of activities mentioned in paragraphs 11.38, 11.42, 11.74, and 11.92 of the proposed programme budget. It would be interesting to hear comments on the proposed redeployment of a substantial number of posts, particularly from the Industrial development programme to the Science and technology programme, which the Secretary-General had proposed in paragraph 11.43, but which had been opposed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) in paragraph 493 of its report (A/36/38).

10. His delegation had noted the information contained in paragraph 11.100 of the proposed programme budget with respect to language posts. It was his understanding that the implementation of a system of self-revision in New York and Geneva would result in savings in the translation area. He wondered whether there was any possibility of introducing the same system at ESCAP, although he recognized that, given the very small number of language staff, it might not work there.

11. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that, although he appreciated the fact that the Executive Secretary had been appointed relatively recently, he believed that the Executive Secretary must have access to information about the long-standing high vacancy rate. He wondered what the rate had been over the past five years, for instance.

12. As for the comments about the low level of resources available to ESCAP, his Government, as an active supporter of its activities, drew attention to the fact that ESCAP received double the amount of the extrabudgetary resources of any other regional commission. According to projections, those resources would increase further over the coming biennium to \$60 million.

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13. Mr. PAL (India) commended the proposals relating to ESCAP for being particularly clearly presented. Like the Japanese representative, he had been struck by the transfer of posts from the Industrial development programme to the Science and technology programme. He wondered whether the redeployments had been made necessary by the completion of programmes, or because there were not sufficient resources to finance both the Industrial development and the Science and technology programmes at the same time.

14. He noted that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women would provide the financing for a number of posts under the Social development and humanitarian affairs programme. The posts concerned were associated with some regular budget activities, including at least one programme element of the highest priority. In view of the possibility that the Voluntary Fund might cease to finance those posts after the end of 1982, he wondered how ESCAP proposed to continue to fund those activities thereafter.

15. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that he was led to wonder whether the continuation of a number of programmes was warranted, in view of the possibility that they were duplicating programmes conducted by other bodies. His delegation had noted the Commission's substantial travel budget; even if the Commission's area of responsibility did cover half the world, the budget proposals still provided little explanation of why so much travel was needed. It seemed likely that programme element 4 of subprogramme 1 in the Transport I programme was already being taken in hand by the World Tourism Organization, and that programme element 5 of subprogramme 1 in the Transport II programme could be incorporated into other extensive trade programmes, such as those being conducted by UNCTAD.

16. In view of the substantial increases proposed in the appropriations for the management of technical co-operation activities, he reaffirmed his delegation's view that technical co-operation should properly be funded from extrabudgetary contributions and voluntary resources, rather than the regular budget. The distinction between programme management and programme delivery should be kept clearly in mind.

17. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) asked if the Executive Secretary's critical comments on the imbalance between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources should be taken to imply that, if the imbalance between the two kinds of funding was too great, the output capacity of posts funded from the regular budget would be impaired. He wondered whether the Executive Secretary had any preliminary ideas he could share with the Committee on the effects of decentralization in the areas of finance and personnel policy; and he sought clarification from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee as to whether, if the vacancy rate in ESCAP fell, the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an increased staff turnover reduction would prevent posts from being filled.

18. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) affirmed that the Advisory Committee's recommendation would in no way hinder the Executive Secretary and OPS from filling any vacancy.

19. Mr. KIBRIA (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that certain difficulties were inherent in the filling of vacancies in the regional commissions. Vacancies had to be referred to Headquarters, so that candidates could be sought both from the regions concerned and from the rosters kept at Headquarters. Preserving equitable geographical distribution of staff was another

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(Mr. Kibria, Escap)

problem, since it could impose a degree of rigidity on the selection of candidates. One of the reasons for his coming to Headquarters had been to establish means of speeding up the recruitment process, so as to maintain a higher level of occupied posts.

20. At present, about 25 per cent of ESCAP's total programme activity was funded from the regular budget, the remainder being funded from extrabudgetary resources. He had been given to believe that the proportion covered by the regular budget in the past had been closer to 50 per cent, a level which would appear to be more balanced. The important thing was to ensure that the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly exercised control only over the 25 per cent of the resources which they currently supplied; the remaining resources were subject to the priorities and requirements of their donors. From the Commission's point of view, the variability of extrabudgetary funds was a disadvantage: donors would provide the funds to initiate a project, but then be unable to continue their financing some two or three years later and the activity would have to fall into limbo.

21. The potential duplication of other agencies' activities was a fundamental problem. ESCAP was a multisectoral organization dealing with a number of different fields, in each of which there was likely to be a global organization, with its own modus operandi, also at work. Too rigid an extension of the principle of non-duplication, therefore, would leave the Commission with very little to do. In fact, however, the problem was less serious than it might appear. In a number of cases the Commission had established joint units with bodies such as UNIDO and UNEP. In the case of food, it left policy-formulation and programme implementation to FAO, which had the primary responsibility for food activities, and concentrated instead on the social aspects of the problem. In trade too, while UNCTAD and ESCAP worked in the closest co-operation, there was so much to be done that there was no difficulty in identifying areas in which each body could concentrate its efforts without danger of duplication.

22. The extrabudgetary posts in the Social development and humanitarian affairs programme posed a genuine problem: if funding from the Voluntary Fund ceased, he would have to find alternative resources. He was confident, however, that the necessary amounts could be found.

23. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) said that OFS consulted every department and office, including ESCAP, twice in each biennium to obtain precise information on the number of vacant posts. On the basis of that information it forwarded revised estimates to the Fifth Committee and ACABQ, calling for an increase or decrease in resources, as required by the vacancy situation.

24. As was indicated in table 11.1 of the proposed programme budget, ESCAP's estimated outlays of extrabudgetary funds were expected to increase from some \$33 million in the period 1980-1981 to almost \$60 million in the biennium 1982-1983. There was thus ample justification for the redeployment of posts to the management of technical co-operation activities, as called for in the budget proposals.

25. The possibility of fundamental changes in the language services through the introduction of self-revision varied in proportion to the number of language staff employed. Where there were a large number of language staff, as at Headquarters and

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in Geneva, there could be a considerable degree of flexibility in introducing self-revision; where language staffs were very small, as in ESCAP, such possibilities were extremely limited.

26. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) asked whether the Executive Secretary believed that any of the programmes he had been obliged to take on or modify in response to extrabudgetary contributions had limited ESCAP's ability to deliver the programmes funded by the regular budget, or had caused any part of the Commission's capacity to be redirected to other programmes.

27. Mr. PAL (India) commented that the projections for technical co-operation funds in table 11.1 included large amounts from UNDP, UNFPA and other specialized agencies. Those projections had presumably been made before the governing bodies of the agencies concerned had met, and agency funds, as everyone knew, had been slashed. He wondered, therefore, whether the Executive Secretary still expected such a large volume of extrabudgetary resources to become available.

28. Mr. KIBRIA (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that a 50 : 50 distribution of ESCAP's resources between the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds would give the Second and Fifth Committees more control over the Commission's activities. It should be borne in mind that the regular budget was a reliable source of funding, whereas the resources received from donors could be estimated only very approximately.

29. Mr. PAL (India) said that he appreciated the point made by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP concerning a proper balance between programmes financed from extrabudgetary resources and those charged to the regular budget. His main concern, however, was to know what would become of the Commission's substantive programmes that were financed from extrabudgetary resources should such resources no longer be available. He was thinking, in particular, of a number of posts financed from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women which were carrying on work pertaining to regular budget programmes.

30. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that he, too, was concerned about the fate of programmes financed from extrabudgetary resources if the necessary funding did not materialize.

31. Mr. KIBRIA (Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) said that, if the necessary extrabudgetary resources did not become available, the Commission would have two choices: either to abandon the affected programmes or to request funding from the General Assembly. However, the prospects for obtaining the necessary voluntary contributions were good and a number of countries in the region had been most generous. Projects would be abandoned only as a last resort.

32. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, in the light of the policy stated in the foreword to the programme budget, he was astounded by the Executive Secretary's reply. In a time of extreme economic difficulty for all Member States, it was incomprehensible that abandoning programmes was regarded as a last resort. If there was no funding for a programme it should cease. In the general debate on the budget, his delegation had made it clear that it was not prepared to acquiesce in the shifting to the regular budget of activities previously funded from extrabudgetary resources.

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33. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$31,533,000 under section 11 for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved in first reading without a vote.

34. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, had there been a vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation, his delegation would have abstained for the reasons he had mentioned in his earlier statement.

35. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation, too, would have abstained in the vote.

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (continued)

36. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division), replying to the question asked by the representative of the United States at the preceding meeting, said that the breakdown of the provision for estimated travel requirements of representatives (A/36/6, vol. II, para. 19.12) was as follows: \$10,800 for the travel and subsistence of representatives of national liberation movements (PAC, ANC and SWAPO) to attend the annual session of the Commission on Human Settlements and \$19,900 for the travel and subsistence of members of the bureau of the Commission to attend the annual joint meeting with the bureau of the UNEP Governing Council. The legislative authority for the expenditure was paragraph 7 of resolution 3412 (XXX).

37. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) proposed that, in the light of the information just provided by the Director of the Budget Division, the figure of \$36.6 million for travel of representatives in table 19.7 of the programme budget should be reduced by \$10,800.

38. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that there was legislative authority for the expenditure on travel and subsistence of representatives of national liberation movements and that the Fifth Committee could not alter a political decision taken by the General Assembly.

39. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) endorsed the view stated by the representative of Panama. While the Fifth Committee should make every effort to ensure that resources were used properly from the technical standpoint, it had no authority to reverse important political decisions of the General Assembly. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General.

40. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that, even if a country disagreed with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly, it had no right to seek to exclude from the budget an appropriation requested to implement that resolution. In other words, the United States proposal appeared to be inadmissible from the technical point of view. In any event, his delegation would vote against it.

41. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) observed that, when a delegation did not wish to vote against a section as a whole, it sometimes requested a separate vote on a specific budgetary request so that it could place its position on record.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that the rules of procedure authorized any delegation to request a separate vote on any part of the budget. The Committee had only recently voted on a

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request for the travel and subsistence of members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for which legislative authority also existed in the form of a General Assembly resolution.

43. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that he could understand a proposal to reduce the amount requested for travel and subsistence if a delegation considered it to be excessive. However, the General Assembly had decided in principle to pay the travel and per diem of representatives of national liberation movements and it was improper to seek to overturn a General Assembly resolution by denying the necessary funds. His delegation would therefore vote against the United States proposal.

44. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that the amount requested for travel and subsistence was an accurate estimate of the costs involved. His delegation would vote against the United States proposal, which would not succeed in defeating the liberation movements if that was the aim.

45. Mr. PAL (India) drew attention to rule 129 of the rules of procedure and proposed that the Committee should reject the United States motion for division.

46. Mr. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) said that the representatives of the national liberation movements had attended sessions of the Commission on Human Settlements and there had been no wastage of the allocation for that purpose. He appealed to the United States representative not to press his proposal.

47. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that a denial of the United States delegation's request for a separate vote on the estimate for travel of representatives would be an interference with the freedom of speech. Although his delegation would support the appropriation for the section as a whole, it would like an opportunity to express its view on the allocation to which the United States delegation wished to draw attention.

48. Mr. PAL (India) said that he was not aware that the rules of procedure conflicted with the freedom of speech. Rule 129 was quite clear: if the motion for division was rejected, the Committee would take a decision on the section as a whole.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that a proposal to deny a request for a separate vote had no precedent and that he would prefer to seek legal counsel. He therefore suggested that the Committee should defer its decision on the matter.

50. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru), Rapporteur, said that it was indeed unprecedented in the Fifth Committee to deny a delegation a request for a separate vote. If the Committee accepted the Indian proposal, it would be setting a very serious precedent for its future work. He therefore would support the request for a separate vote.

51. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that, although the Legal Counsel might confirm that the Indian proposal was a perfectly acceptable way of using the rules of procedure, the motive, which was to deny the freedom of speech, had to be borne in mind.

52. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) and Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that the Indian proposal was fully in accordance with the rules of procedure.

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53. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that, as in the case of the procedure followed recently in respect of the travel and subsistence expenses of members of CPC, an attempt was being made to circumvent a decision of the General Assembly. In the case of the travel costs of both the CPC members and the national liberation movements, the Secretariat had rightly applied the General Assembly's decisions by requesting the necessary financial resources in the programme budget. If a delegation wished to have a General Assembly resolution rescinded, it should seek to do so directly and, if it was successful, there would no longer be any legislative authority for the expenditure to which it objected. In any event, the procedure followed by the Committee in respect of the estimate for travel and subsistence of CPC members, and of the representatives of the national liberation movements under section 19, if it decided to accede to the United States request, should not constitute a precedent.

54. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) endorsed the view expressed by the Rapporteur with regard to the Committee's practice.

55. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that rule 130 provided that when an amendment was moved to a proposal the amendment should be voted on first. His proposal was in fact an amendment to the proposed programme budget and should thus be put to the vote.

56. Mr. PAL (India) said that the position now seemed clearer. The United States was speaking not of a division but of an amendment. The proposal should indeed be put to the vote.

57. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that the United States amendment was substantive, since it would amount to amending a General Assembly resolution. That would be a political decision. No one could contest the rules of procedure. The position initially adopted by India was valid.

58. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation supported the position taken by Morocco and Poland. The financial implications were part of the General Assembly resolution. Nevertheless his delegation was not opposed to a vote on the United States amendment. The Committee should seek advice from the Legal Counsel.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that it was his intention to seek the view of the Legal Counsel. He suggested that the Committee should vote on the United States proposal, on the understanding that it would not establish a precedent.

60. Mr. GEBRE-MEDHIN (Ethiopia) said he doubted whether the Committee could amend a resolution of the General Assembly.

61. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that it was unclear whether the United States proposal referred to all sections of the proposed programme budget relating to travel.

62. The Chairman said that it applied only to section 19.

63. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that the Committee could vote only on the financial implications of a General Assembly resolution, not on the political implications.

64. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Committee could vote on the United States amendment. If the

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(Mr. Mselle, ACABQ)

Committee voted to delete \$10,800 from the amount proposed under travel of representatives, that did not mean that resolution 3412 (XXX) would not be implemented. The Committee would not be amending the resolution. The Secretariat could still invite the representatives of national liberation movements, since it had a legal requirement to do so.

65. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that he failed to see how the resolution could be implemented if the sum in question was deleted.

66. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, when the Advisory Committee reviewed the programme budget, it sometimes considered whether more or less resources were necessary to implement a resolution. The proposed deletion of \$10,800 had psychological and political implications but, technically, it would not mean that invitations could not be issued, since there was a legal requirement to do so under the resolution.

67. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that everyone knew what was behind the proposal. The United States had adopted a consistent position on the travel expenses of representatives of national liberation movements. Whether the Committee voted or not, such representatives would still receive invitations. Her delegation moved that the debate be closed without waiting for the opinion of the Legal Counsel.

68. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to end the debate on the United States proposal, and proceed to a vote on it.

69. It was so decided.

70. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) and Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that they would vote against the United States amendment in view of the important principles involved.

71. Mr. GEBRE-MEDHIN (Ethiopia) said that his delegation would vote against the United States proposal.

72. Mr. EL HOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation would vote against the United States amendment, since it contravened resolution 3412 (XXX).

73. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said he trusted that the Committee was not establishing a precedent by voting on a resolution already adopted by the General Assembly, and that the vote would not amount to an amendment of the resolution. His delegation would vote against the proposal.

74. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that Peru, as a third-world country, would vote against the proposal.

75. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that his delegation was opposed to the United States amendment since it was important to adhere to the principles of the United Nations.

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76. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation would oppose the amendment out of solidarity with the national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations.

77. Mr. RUGWIZANGOGA (Rwanda) said that his delegation would oppose the amendment, since it represented an attempt to prevent representatives of national liberation movements from attending United Nations meetings.

78. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation opposed the United States amendment on the understanding that it related only to section 19 of the proposed budget.

79. Mr. NKOUNKOU (Congo) said that his delegation would vote against the amendment since the Congo was a non-aligned country which supported national liberation movements.

80. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq) said that his Government supported national liberation movements, and felt that their travel expenses should be covered by the United Nations. Iraq would vote against the amendment.

81. Mr. PAL (India) said he was pleased that, by considering the United States proposal under rule 130 rather than rule 129, the freedom of speech of the United States had been preserved. It was regrettable that the proposal sought to deny that right to national liberation movements.

82. Mr. QUTAIISH (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation would vote against the amendment. National liberation movements should be given financial assistance to participate in United Nations gatherings.

83. Mr. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) said that his delegation would vote against the amendment. If it was adopted, it would be impossible to implement the resolution.

84. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that his country was opposed to the amendment. The Committee was not competent to decide political matters and acceptance of the United States amendment would represent a challenge to decisions already adopted by the Assembly. It would be interesting to know how much money had been wasted by the Committee in debating the deletion of \$10,800 from the budget.

85. Mr. MEMMI (Tunisia) and Mr. FALL OULD MAALLOUM (Mauritania) said that they would vote against the amendment.

86. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the proposal made by the United States delegation.

87. The United States proposal was rejected by 91 votes to 1, with 12 abstentions.

88. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, subject to adjustments that might be required as a result of subsequent decisions of the Fifth Committee on the relevant recommendations of CPC, the Committee should approve in first reading an appropriation in the amount of \$9,705,500 under section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

89. He further suggested that the Committee should approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,029,600 for the

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work programme of HABITAT at the regional level. A related appropriation of \$196,200 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

90. It was so decided.

91. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, had there been a vote on section 19 of the budget, his delegation would have abstained. His delegation's position was not directly related to the question of national liberation movements, nor did it reflect any opposition to HABITAT. Rather, it reflected regret at the way in which requirements under section 19 had been put before the Committee. It was hard to understand why the Secretary-General had not included in the initial estimates the anticipated expense of redeploying HABITAT posts to the regional commissions, and why he had not calculated the zero-growth budget on that basis. The Secretary-General should not claim that zero real growth had been applied while requesting additional amounts which, if granted, would vitiate the concept of zero growth. The changes under the section attributable to the redeployment of posts meant that expenditure had increased by nearly 4 per cent, instead of declining by 0.9 per cent. His delegation trusted that the Secretary-General would ensure that zero real growth was maintained in future.

92. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its first reading of section 19 of the programme budget.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.