



FIFTH COMMITTEE  
32nd meeting  
held on  
Wednesday, 4 November 1981  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABDALLA (Sudan)

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

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11 November 1981

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

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

First reading (continued)

Section 7. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew attention to the recommended increase in the turnover deduction for section 7 from the normal 5 per cent to 10 per cent, with a resulting reduction of \$465,500 in the Secretary-General's estimates, and to the recommendation in paragraph 7.11 for a reduction of \$1,700 in the estimate for communications pursuant to the Advisory Committee's position as set out in chapter I, paragraph 17, of its report. He drew attention also to paragraphs 7.2 to 7.4, in which the Advisory Committee cautioned against the assumption of an automatic relationship between increased delivery in dollar terms and the need for more extrabudgetary posts.

2. Miss ANSTEE (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) said that her Department had special characteristics, being an operational unit based at Headquarters with responsibility for technical co-operation programmes in some 120 different countries, many of them in highly technical sectors. The bulk of the Department's administrative funds were derived from overhead charges on the resources it managed on behalf of UNDP and UNFPA; the budget proposals made a clear distinction between such funds and resources provided under the regular budget. Where the regular budget was concerned, the proposed increases for temporary assistance and staff travel were almost entirely offset by reductions in the sums requested for consultancy services and expert groups, resulting in a virtually zero rate of real growth.

3. An increase in the Department's extrabudgetary resources was expected over the next two years, but the Department had taken fully to heart the statement in paragraph 7.4 of the Advisory Committee's report concerning the relationship between programme delivery and additional posts. At the same time, it was the Department's responsibility to use the resources at its disposal to the maximum in development activities and to improve the effectiveness of technical co-operation in support of development programmes. That was not always easy, as the flow of extrabudgetary resources was unpredictable; but between 1979 and 1980 its technical co-operation delivery level had increased by 34 per cent, well above the prevailing rate of inflation, and she expected the same level to be maintained. More refined management systems had been developed, allowing operations to be monitored more closely. In conclusion, she pointed out that a major proportion of the posts associated with technical co-operation involved only short-term or temporary appointments.

4. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should approve in first reading the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$15,966,200

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(The Chairman)

under section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

5. It was so decided.

#### Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

6. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew attention to paragraphs 15.2 to 15.10 of the Advisory Committee's report, in which the Committee recommended that the resource requirements for the Integrated Programme for Commodities, which had hitherto been treated as non-recurrent, should, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, be regarded as a recurrent item of expenditure and enter into the calculation of the real rate of growth for the section, which would accordingly rise to 6 per cent. In consultations with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Advisory Committee had learned that if the resources for the Integrated Programme for Commodities were to be treated as a recurrent item, fewer ad hoc posts would be required, as detailed in paragraph 15.8 of its report. The resulting reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate would be \$405,500.

7. As indicated in paragraph 15.11, the Advisory Committee agreed to the reclassification of the post of the Chief of the Trade facilitation programme from the P-5 to the D-1 level.

8. Mr. HICKEY (Australia) said that his delegation had participated actively in the Trade and Development Board's deliberations on the proposed programme budget for UNCTAD for 1982-1983; during those deliberations, a number of serious deficiencies had been revealed. The budget proposals currently before the Committee regrettably failed to take account of a number of suggestions made by delegations in that regard. The review of the UNCTAD budget seemed to have fallen between two stools: participants in the Trade and Development Board session in Geneva had assumed that the Fifth Committee would review the proposed budget in detail; the Fifth Committee, on the other hand, assumed that the proposed budget had already been closely scrutinized in Geneva. The Advisory Committee and CPC had made invaluable contributions, but the Secretariat had in effect taken control of the UNCTAD budget, thereby weakening the processes of proper accountability.

9. Consultants were expensive and should always be used sparingly. Despite admonitions from the Fifth Committee at the thirty-fourth session, and subsequent admonitions in various UNCTAD forums, UNCTAD continued to follow unacceptable practices as far as consultants were concerned. One must wonder why an allocation of \$23,100 was needed for consultants especially when, as admitted in paragraph 15.10 of the budget proposals, their advice was to be on issues under negotiation, and in any event, competent staff were available. The same question could be asked with regard to the request for consultant services in connexion with the Integrated Programme for Commodities, particularly since paragraph 15.25 of the proposed programme budget implied that there would in future be fewer international commodity agreements to negotiate and, thus, less work to do.

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(Mr. Hickey, Australia)

10. Members of the Trade and Development Board were in agreement that there should be a shift in resources away from individual commodity agreements towards broader structural adjustment and protectionism questions affecting all commodities. A representative of UNCTAD should explain why that agreement was not adequately reflected in the budget proposals.

11. The outputs of subprogrammes 1 and 2 under the Money, finance and development programme had been of poor quality, and considerable duplication existed. Those two subprogrammes, nevertheless, absorbed a large percentage of resources. A redeployment of resources appeared to be warranted. Moreover, as CPC indicated in paragraph 264 of its report (A/36/38), the UNCTAD secretariat should have submitted proposals for priorities among different programmes in order to facilitate the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, but had failed to do so. He wondered what the current position of UNCTAD was on that matter. Similarly, his delegation would appreciate some comment on the question of evaluating the effectiveness of programmes: it was difficult to accept the UNCTAD secretariat's contention that the programme evaluation approach was still "too experimental" for it to be applied to UNCTAD.

12. UNCTAD's involvement in such areas as debt rescheduling and international financial questions was not, as far as his delegation knew, supported by mandates from the United Nations. The Fifth Committee should express unequivocal concern about such ultra vires activities. The justification offered by the UNCTAD secretariat, as reported in paragraph 267 of the CPC report, was hard to accept. Referring to subprogramme 1 of the Money, finance and development programme, he said that his delegation would welcome an explanation as to the legislative basis for programme element 1.4, to the extent that meetings on debt reorganization held under the aegis of UNCTAD were involved. Finally, his delegation hoped that the proposed schedule of 20 meetings for the Integrated Programme for Commodities would not be regarded as fixed; meetings should be convened as and when the expectation of substantive progress in negotiations justified them.

13. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) associated his delegation with the comments made by the Australian representative. The budget proposals failed to take account of recommendations made by a number of delegations at the recent session of the Trade and Development Board. It was clear that the budgetary review process needed to be better co-ordinated. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the estimate for the Integrated Programme for Commodities should be treated as a recurrent part of the budget, but wondered what the rationale was for the retention of three D-1 level posts for the Programme where one might suffice. Despite a call by the Economic and Social Council to reduce the use made of expert groups, additional expert groups were provided for under the current budget proposals. His delegation would prefer funds to be sought only after such a group had been established by agreement of an intergovernmental body, rather than in advance. Observing that his Government participated fully in the financing of UNCTAD, he stressed his delegation's opposition to the exclusion of any Member State from any UNCTAD group.

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14. Mrs. HOUSHOLDER (United States of America) said that, while UNCTAD was a useful body in which to discuss certain international issues, it had its limitations. In that regard, she agreed with the representatives of Australia and Canada. Her delegation objected to certain features of the proposals under section 15. The proper bodies to conduct activities such as were proposed under programme 1, for example, were the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Almost \$4 million was to be allocated to shipping, an area which her delegation regarded as highly marginal. And while she would have supported programme 6 (Economic co-operation among developing countries) had participation been open to all members of UNCTAD, she could not do so when some developing countries and all developed ones were excluded from certain activities. Subprogramme 4 of programme 6 called for the creation of new financial mechanisms, there being no legislative basis for such an activity, the related resources should be deleted. The publications to be issued under programme 8 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries) were likely to duplicate work being done by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

15. She requested a vote both on the section as a whole and on the sume of \$98,200 which the Secretary-General requested, in paragraph 15.91 of the proposed programme budget, for travel of representatives from certain national liberation movements.

16. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that, in the absence of a representative from UNCTAD, it was not possible to provide immediate responses to the points raised by delegations. He suggested that the Committee should defer taking a decision on section 15 until appropriate replies had been received from the UNCTAD secretariat in Geneva.

#### Section 9. Transnational corporations

17. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that there were only two areas in which the Advisory Committee was making specific proposals for reductions in the estimates under section 9, and such reductions were minor ones. The Advisory Committee was unable to recommend approval of the proposed reclassification of a post in the Information Analysis Division from P-2 to P-3. As explained in paragraph 9.6 of its report, the consequential reduction would be \$18,100.

18. The other reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee, and explained in paragraph 9.8, resulted from the findings detailed in chapter I, paragraph 17, of the report. It was proposed to reduce the estimate for long-distance telephone calls by \$4,500, making a total reduction under section 9 of \$22,600.

19. Because Beirut had been used as a basis for costing the Centre/ECWA Joint Unit, whereas the estimates for section 14 were based on Baghdad, there had been an over-estimation of expenditure amounting to \$68,400 for that Unit. The estimates, calculated at 1982/1983 rates, in table 9.19 of the proposed programme budget should therefore be: established posts, \$204,800; consultants, \$41,600; staff costs, \$69,600; and travel of staff, \$26,700. That made a total of \$342,700 instead of the \$411,100 shown in table 9.19 and reproduced in paragraph 9.10 of the Advisory Committee's report. The Advisory Committee's recommended estimate of \$9,141,600 for section 9 should consequently be reduced by \$68,400.

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20. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that an important activity of the Centre on Transnational Corporations was the formulation of a code of conduct, and programme element 1 of subprogramme 2 had accordingly been given a high priority rating. The need for increased activity in that respect might become urgent during the coming biennium. Forty-eight Member States had so far been involved in the negotiations on the subject, which were nearing the final stage. There was a broad understanding that the code had to be adopted by consensus if it was to be implemented effectively, and that would require a final round of negotiations open to all Member States. There would be a considerable demand for information from the Centre on the part of States that had hitherto not taken part in the negotiations, and his delegation hoped that the necessary redeployment would be effected in the Centre to enable it to meet that demand.

21. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) asked for further clarification with respect to the estimates of \$1,244,100 for consultants and \$290,100 for travel of representatives, shown in table 9.4 of the proposed programme budget. In paragraph 9.3 of its report, the Advisory Committee explained that the travel costs in question related to the travel and subsistence of 16 experts who, serving in their individual capacities, assisted the Commission during its annual sessions and attended meetings of the Working Group of the Commission. The total amount for consultants represented 13.6 per cent of the total appropriation under section 9, while that for consultants for the Centre on Transnational Corporations represented 15.1 per cent of the Centre's budget. An effort should be made to reduce the cost of consultants' services, which were sometimes as high as \$400 per day, in order to release resources for other substantive work, such as work on the code of conduct.

22. He hoped that account had been taken of the request in paragraph (f) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/44 that the Secretary-General should endeavour to find extrabudgetary resources to facilitate, when necessary, the effective participation of members of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting through payment of their travel and per diem expenses.

23. In his view, the reclassification of one post from the P-2 to the P-3 level in the Information Analysis Division was justified as a means of encouraging the staff of the Centre on Transnational Corporations to assume some of the work that was being done by consultants. He would not press that point, however.

24. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) associated himself with the Egyptian representative's comments concerning the use of extrabudgetary resources for the travel and per diem expenses of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. It was most essential for the Group to meet in order to lay the foundations for a relevant information system. He asked what was being done to fill the vacant post of Deputy Executive Director of the Centre, assigned to Latin America and occupied until recently by a Latin American.

25. He asked whether there was any truth in the rumour that there was to be an internal reorganization of the Centre. Such reorganization should not be an internal matter, but should be the result of decisions taken by the General Assembly.

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26. Mr. KBAIER (Tunisia) said that several members of the Group of 77 had expressed their concern at the absence of staff members from developing countries in high-level posts in the Centre on Transnational Corporations. Since the Centre had been established at the request of developing countries with a view to helping those countries in their relations with the transnational corporations, they should be adequately represented, particularly in high-level posts. He asked how many staff members from developing countries had been promoted to posts at the P-5, D-1 and D-2 levels, and what efforts had been made by the Centre to make more use of consultants from developing countries.

27. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation strongly supported the activities of the Centre. It would like to have some explanation as to the reasons for the proposed post reclassification from P-2 to P-3, together with details of the additional functions to be assumed by the staff member concerned.

28. Mr. SAHLGREN (Executive Director, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations), replying to a question raised by the Swedish representative, said that efforts were to be made to inform countries that had not taken part in the negotiations on the code of conduct of what had been done so as to facilitate their participation in the higher-level discussions that would take place when the Working Group had completed its task.

29. Replying to the Egyptian representative's question concerning consultants, he said that the programme of work recommended by the Commission on Transnational Corporations covered a wide range of complex and often highly technical issues, and in most cases specialized expertise was required. Since such expertise was frequently needed only for one specific task, it had been concluded that the services required could be obtained most effectively, and at least cost, on a consultancy basis. That approach would be pursued within the guidelines of the Secretary-General's administrative instructions on the use of experts and consultants.

30. In response to the question raised by the Tunisian representative, he said that 44 per cent of the consultants paid from the regular budget to assist the services of the Centre were from developing countries, while for technical co-operation activities, 47 per cent of experts in advisory services and 53 per cent in training services were from those countries. Those percentages were significantly above the corresponding proportions in the United Nations system as a whole.

31. Recommendations for promotion were made strictly on the basis of merit. The substantive departments put forward candidates for promotion but it was, of course, the responsibility of the appointment and promotion bodies within the United Nations system to evaluate the proposals and make final recommendations for inclusion in the promotion registers. Those bodies also gave consideration to other staff members at the relevant level and seniority. Promotion was, of course, restricted by the availability of posts, so that often well-deserving people could not be promoted.

32. Of the Professional staff as a whole, 13 were from developed countries, 17 from developing countries and 3 from socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

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(Executive Director, United Nations Centre  
on Transnational Corporations)

At the P-5 level and above, there were 4 staff members from developed countries, 6 from developing countries and 1 from Eastern Europe. Some individuals from developing countries were less progressive than those from developed countries, and vice versa, and he viewed that as an important factor, alongside the criteria determined by the General Assembly.

33. With respect to the question of the travel of expert advisers, he said that there were 16 such advisers, one third of whom had a business background, one third a trade union background and one third an academic background. Their services had proved extremely useful in helping Governments to negotiate the code of conduct, and in other activities. He hoped that the Committee would support their work by enabling them to attend the Commission's meetings.

34. With regard to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/44, the only Government that had responded to the appeal for extrabudgetary resources was the Government of Finland. The Centre would intensify its efforts to persuade other Governments to follow that example. He shares the view that it was important for high-level experts from developing countries to participate in the exercise, but they were often unable to do so unless their travel costs were paid.

35. The vacancy referred to by the representative of Panama had not yet been filled. He had put forward a proposal to the Secretary-General for the redeployment of the Centre's resources, and until action was taken on that proposal he would be unable to take a decision with respect to the vacancy.

36. With regard to the reclassification of one post in the Information Analysis Division from P-2 to P-3, he said that the P-2 post had been established for developing a computer programme for the information system. In addition to that responsibility, the functions now included the collection and analysis of information and the preparation of replies to government requests for information on toxic substances, which required a higher level of competence.

37. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that the post to which the representative of Panama had referred, and which had previously been held by a Peruvian national, was legitimately regarded as a Latin American post. He hoped that the redeployment to which the Executive Director had referred would not mean that the post was to be eliminated.

38. He had been surprised to note that no document had been made available giving details of the type of consultants, expenditure on individual consultant services, the type of studies conducted, or the time required for such studies, as had been done for the 1980-1981 programme budget. Care should be taken to ensure that the consultants engaged were the most highly qualified people available and that there was no discrimination in the payment of fees, as there had been in the past. He had previously been informed that the payment of higher fees to certain consultants depended on their prestige, but he had expressed reservations on that point. His delegation would not vote in favour of the appropriation of funds under section 9

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(Mr. Martorell, Peru)

unless detailed reports were provided on the expenditure on consultants in 1980-1981 and on the proposed expenditure in 1982-1983. He proposed that the Committee's decision on the section should be deferred until those reports were available.

39. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that the Secretary-General's proposals under section 9 were rather modest in view of the scope of the activities to be undertaken by the Centre; he hoped that they would not suffer as a result of the zero-growth fever that had gripped the framers of the budget. The activities planned under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 were of particular importance, and it was hoped that work would indeed begin on the implementation of the code of conduct in 1982. Fortunately, the Advisory Committee had supported the Secretary-General's requests for consultants, but his delegation too was concerned about the inequitable geographical distribution of the consultants used. Regrettably, the Advisory Committee had not given favourable consideration to the request for resources required for effective implementation of subprogrammes 1 and 3. The arguments adduced in paragraph 9.6 of its first report against the reclassification of one P-2 post to the P-3 level were logical, but his delegation found the arguments of the Secretariat more convincing. Indeed, the work of the Centre might suffer if it did not have adequate manpower resources to carry out all the tasks assigned to it by Member States. He certainly welcomed the positive recommendation by the Advisory Committee with respect to the three new G-4 posts that the Secretary-General had requested.

40. In general, his delegation saw the Centre as playing a unique role in efforts to establish the new international economic order, and would accordingly support any measures aimed at enhancing its effectiveness.

41. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) expressed satisfaction at the new activities to be undertaken by the Centre in its role of limiting the adverse effects of transnational corporations, though the extensive use of consultants was disquieting. An increase in the number of established posts would obviously allow for more equitable geographical distribution, but if consultants were to be used, they should be from the developing countries, which had no lack of experts of the required high calibre. He believed that there had been cases where the Centre had duplicated studies already conducted in other parts of the United Nations system, and he wondered whether a comprehensive survey had ever been done to ascertain what studies had been undertaken.

42. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) expressed concern at the reply given by the Executive Director on the subject of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting; further efforts should be made to comply with the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council in that respect. In the light of the explanations given, and of the considerable benefits that could accrue at little cost, he believed that the requested reclassification of one P-2 post to the P-3 level should be approved.

43. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that the Executive Director's arguments had convinced him that the reclassification of the P-2 post in the Information Analysis Division was justified and should be approved.

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44. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that he had no quarrel with the Executive Director's intention of reorganizing the Centre with a view to enhancing its work and management. However, that the effect should be directly detrimental to Latin America was unacceptable. His delegation would be monitoring the situation closely, and he knew that the Group of Latin American States would exert what little pressure it could if any attempt was made to eliminate a post which legitimately belonged to the region.

45. Mr. SAHLGREN (Executive Director, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations) said that the list requested by the representative of Peru would be made available to members of the Committee within the next few days. He could assure him that there was absolutely no nepotism in the hiring of consultants; he personally would take strong exception to such a practice. There were, however, differences in fees, which were the result of bargaining for the best consultants available. He was convinced that the money had been well spent; it would not be of any help to the developing countries to send boy scouts instead of high calibre consultants.

46. Replying to the question raised by the representative of Morocco, he said that there was an elaborate consultation system which allowed the Centre to keep abreast of studies being conducted elsewhere, as well as a computerized listing of ongoing research both within and outside the United Nations system. While he did not exclude the possibility of error, as far as he was aware there had been no serious cases of duplication, although there was bound to be some minimal overlapping if every area was to be fully covered.

47. He could assure the representative of Panama that he was very much aware of the need for a strong Latin American presence in the Centre, inter alia, because of the importance of transnational corporations in that region and the amount of talent available there. He had no doubt that the Secretary-General would make a fair decision when the time came, but that did not necessarily imply that a Latin American would be in precisely the same post as previously.

48. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) clarified that what he had referred to was the favouring of certain political interests or personal friends, not actual nepotism. By scrutinizing a list like the one prepared in 1979, it would be possible to ascertain whether or not the practice persisted. In any event, he had no doubt that the developing countries could provide consultants as highly qualified as those from other areas; what did concern him were the variations in the fees.

49. The Executive Director's reply about the post of Deputy Executive Director was most surprising. As the Panamanian representative had made clear, the Latin American Group would certainly reject any reorganization which resulted in someone from a region other than Latin America occupying that post. The Secretary-General could not, under any circumstances, be permitted to take away a post which lawfully belonged to that region.

50. Mr. SAHLGREN (Executive Director, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations) said that his reference to boy scouts seemed to have been misunderstood; his concern was to ensure that the developing countries were provided with the most

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(Executive Director, United Nations Centre  
on Transnational Corporations)

highly skilled consultants available in their dealings with the transnational corporations. The requisite level of skills could be found in both developed and developing countries.

51. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that all requests for consultancy funds had been weighed carefully before being included in the budget proposals. In real terms, there had been an over-all reduction in the estimates for consultant services and, as members would see from the last column of table 9.4 (A/36/6, vol. I), the real growth under section 9 for that item was minus 10.7 per cent. The appropriation being requested appeared to be higher than in the previous biennium, simply because it was expressed in current dollars.

52. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) explained that he was concerned, not about the figure, but about how the money was spent.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that, at the request of the representative of Peru, he would defer a decision on section 9 until the additional information requested by that representative was available.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in document A/C.6/36/L.3/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 116 (A/C.5/36/27)

54. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in his statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/36/27), the Secretary-General had explained that by adopting the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide that the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations would continue its work on the drafting of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations and on the peaceful settlement of disputes with a view to reporting to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. Based on the assumption that the Special Committee would meet for four weeks in New York, with conference services in six languages, conference-servicing costs would amount to \$565,400, calculated on a full-cost basis. The Secretary-General was not requesting an additional appropriation at the present stage, but would be indicating in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the current session to what extent the costs could be absorbed.

55. Mrs. HOUSHOLDER (United States of America) said that her delegation had voted against the draft resolution in the Sixth Committee, and believed that if the session of the Special Committee did take place, conference-servicing costs should be absorbed or diverted from some other meetings. If the matter was put to a vote, her delegation would abstain.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution in A/C.6/36/L.3/Rev.1, conference-servicing costs

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(The Chairman)

estimated at \$565,400 on a full-cost basis would arise. Those estimates would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted towards the close of the current session.

57. It was so decided.

58. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) explained that his delegation was opposed to any appropriations over and above the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in his proposed programme budget or as recommended by the Advisory Committee. It therefore expected the conference-servicing costs to be absorbed. Had the matter been put to a vote, his delegation would have abstained.

59. Mr. BROCHARD (France), Mrs. de HEDERVARY (Belgium), Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), Mr. RALLIS (Greece), Mr. KUYAMA (Japan), Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) and Mr. WANG Chengwei (China) said that, given the positions taken by their delegations concerning the draft resolution in the Sixth Committee, had the matter been put to a vote, they would have abstained.

60. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that, as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, had the matter been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted in favour.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.