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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia)

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

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Economic and Social Affairs

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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)

First reading (continued)

Section 9. Transnational corporations (continued) (A/C.5/36/CRP.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that as a consequence of the revision of the estimates contained in Table 9.19 of the proposed programme budget (A/36/6), which provided a breakdown of the over-all costs of the UNCTC/ECWA Joint Unit, the correct figure for the Unit was \$342,700 instead of \$411,100. The total appropriation requested by the Secretary-General and the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee should be amended accordingly.
2. He also reminded the Committee of the proposal made by the representative of Egypt at the 32nd meeting to approve the reclassification of a P-2 post to P-3, as requested by the Secretary-General in paragraph 9.8 of the proposed programme budget.
3. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) stated that, following consultations with representatives of other Member States, his delegation wished to withdraw its proposal.
4. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said he was glad that the representatives of Peru and Panama had drawn the Committee's attention, at the 32nd meeting, to the fact that the post of Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations was vacant, since the Secretary-General did not mention that point in the proposed programme budget. His delegation agreed with the delegations of Peru and Panama that the post should go to a national of one of the developing countries, since the Centre's activities were of particular concern to those countries. In filling the post, the Secretary-General should be guided not only by the principles set out in Article 101 of the Charter but also by the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/143, section II, paragraph 2.
5. Mr. SAHLGREN (Executive Director, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations) offered some clarifications on the questions raised at the 32nd meeting. With regard to the employment of women, he pointed out that the number of Professional women staff members at the Centre had risen from two to six, a figure exceeding the 20 per cent target set by the General Assembly for the United Nations system as a whole. The Centre would continue its efforts in that respect, and would also endeavour to increase the use of women consultants. On the broader question of the relationship between the employment of women and the activities of transnational corporations, he said that ILO had carried out several studies on the effect on the employment of women of the activities of transnational corporations in developing countries, and the Centre itself had issued a report entitled "Aspects of the social and political effects of the activities of transnational corporations" (E/C/10/86), which it had submitted to the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its seventh session. It had then been requested to expand its activities in that area.
6. On the question of the redeployment of staff, which seemed to be causing concern to the Peruvian and Panamanian delegations in particular, he said that the changes

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which he himself had proposed and which had been approved by the various bodies concerned would have no financial implications. The purpose was to concentrate resources in line with the priorities set by the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The proposal was now in the hands of the Secretary-General, and it would be improper to prejudge his decision. In the case of the post affected by the redeployment, to which the representative of Peru had referred, the appointment would be made with due regard to the special interest of the Latin American countries but in keeping with the principles of the Charter and the General Assembly's guidelines. The Assembly had clearly stated that no post should be considered the exclusive preserve of any Member State or group of Member States. Other regions besides Latin America were not represented in the Centre, because the number of D-2 posts was limited to two. The Secretary-General would evaluate the candidates and exercise his prerogative, as chief administrative officer of the Organization, of making what he considered the most appropriate selection according to the needs.

7. The Centre's technical co-operation activities, which were financed by UNDP and funds-in-trust, could be divided into three categories: projects of local interest, for which consultants were recruited in the regions concerned; joint projects, combining the experience of developed and developing countries; and projects relating to the transfer of technology and know-how, for which the Centre employed the best consultants it could find. Its activities were very highly regarded both by the Commission on Transnational Corporations and by the Member States concerned.

8. In 1980, 47 per cent of the consultants used by the Centre had been from developing countries; that percentage was much higher than the figure for the United Nations system as a whole. Consultants were recruited with the consent of their countries of origin. Their services remained confidential, which meant that authors of reports had more freedom and funding with no ties could be obtained from donor countries.

9. The Centre operated as a unique kind of "fire brigade"; it had to respond, sometimes in a matter of days, to requests which were often quite complicated. The honoraria paid to consultants covered only the actual number of days worked. The Centre was currently employing eight consultants, three of whom were from developing countries. In the utilization of trust funds, the Centre complied strictly with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and followed the instructions in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/146/Rev.2 to the letter.

10. In a 1977 note verbale, the Secretary-General had invited all Member States to submit nominations for appointment to the Centre's roster of experts. Only 39 Governments had replied, and many of the specialists nominated by them had been employed. The Centre was short of experience and wanted to diversify the sources of its consultants, and it would therefore like to receive further nominations.

11. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that the countries of Latin America had generally supported the establishment of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, and followed its activities very closely. They felt that they were entitled to continued representation on the Centre's staff. His delegation had never claimed that the post of Deputy Executive Director should again go to a Peruvian, but it did not agree with the Executive Director's interpretation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/143, section II, paragraph 2.

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12. Mr. BARTLETT (Jamaica) said he was glad that, as the Executive Director had said, the restructuring of the Centre would have no financial implications; however, it would certainly have considerable repercussions. When the Commission on Transnational Corporations had been informed of the proposed reorganization of the Centre, there had been intensive discussions between certain delegations, the representatives of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director. His delegation was now very disappointed to find that the Executive Director had not taken into account, in the changes he was proposing, the ideas put forward during those consultations. Yet those ideas were shared by at least 32 countries, many of which had been among the first to take an interest in the question of transnational corporations and most of which were in regions where such corporations were extremely active. His delegation welcomed the fact that the final decision on restructuring of the Centre had not yet been taken.

13. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on section 9 as a whole.

14. An appropriation in the amount of \$9,073,200 under section 9 for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved in first reading without a vote, subject to adjustments that might be required as a result of subsequent decisions of the Fifth Committee on the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

15. Mrs. HOUSHOLDER (United States of America) stated that, if a vote had been taken, her delegation would have abstained.

16. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) proposed that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to submit to it, when future programme proposals were under consideration, a full list of all consultants employed by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, whether their honoraria were financed from extrabudgetary resources or from the regular budget of the Organization.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted that proposal.

18. It was so decided.

Interorganizational security measures: Global Security Fund (A/C.5/36/24; A/36/7/Add.6)

19. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had prepared a report entitled "Interorganizational security measures: Global Security Fund" (A/C.5/36/24) after the Advisory Committee had rejected his proposal to deal with that matter in the 1980-81 performance report. The Advisory Committee's view had been that the matter should be dealt with in a separate document. The Fifth Committee thus had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/36/24) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/36/7/Add.6), which contained recommendations on the matter.

20. In his report, the Secretary-General proposed the establishment of a fund at an initial operating level of \$400,000. The costs to be met from the proposed fund and the measures which would be taken in the event of an emergency were outlined in

(Mr. Mselle, ACABQ)

paragraphs 5 and 10 respectively of the Secretary-General's report. The Secretary-General also indicated that the organizations of the United Nations system had agreed to participate in the establishment of such a fund and to reimburse any costs subsequently incurred.

21. After carefully studying the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee agreed that the organizations might have to take steps in emergency situations to safeguard their staff and property. It had no objection to the Secretary-General of the United Nations assuming leadership in that regard. The Advisory Committee also agreed to the cost-sharing formula described in the Secretary-General's report. However, it had concluded that there was no need to establish a fund to attain the desired objective.

22. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$300,000 in any one biennium under section 28D of the programme budget. Such commitments would be entered into in accordance with the General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and, if commitments in excess of \$300,000 were required, the Secretary-General should seek the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. Expenditure incurred would be shared in accordance with the agreed formula and the Secretary-General would report to the General Assembly in the context of the performance reports on such expenditure and the related reimbursements. If the commitment ceiling of \$300,000 was not exceeded, the United Nations share would not exceed \$69,000. If the General Assembly adopted the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 9 of its report (A/36/7/Add.6), no additional appropriation would be required under the programme budget at the current time.

23. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he understood that some situations might require the adoption of emergency measures to protect the property of the Organization and the security of its staff members. However, the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/36/24) did not give a clear picture of what that would entail. There was no indication as to who would decide that an emergency situation existed, what criteria would be used for that purpose, or how the measures would be carried out in practice.

24. In paragraph 10 (a) of the Secretary-General's report, reference was made to radio communications equipment which would enable United Nations staff to establish radio communications outside the country. The members of the Fifth Committee, who were not specialists in the field, would doubtless wish to know what frequency would be used, where the relay stations would be situated and who would resolve the technical questions involved.

25. Since every emergency situation was, by definition, unforeseeable, it was necessary to be on the spot in order to assess the situation as events unfolded. However, in paragraph 10 (b), it was envisaged that security personnel would be dispatched even before the occurrence of the emergency situation in order to advise on the measures to be taken. That was a contradiction he found puzzling.

26. It was not indicated in paragraph 10 (c) how temporary guards would be hired, at what level they would be appointed and whether they would be recruited locally.

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(Mr. Belyaev, Byelorussian SSR)

Obviously, in the case of a natural disaster, for example, it would be difficult to find temporary guards locally.

27. He noted that in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report a series of costs were listed which would not be covered by the Fund; he wished to know who would bear those costs. His delegation had the impression that the idea of establishing a fund, which created many more problems than it would solve, was just the start of a series of complications. Thus, while admitting that the establishment of a fund was unnecessary, the Advisory Committee recommended that resources be provided under the regular budget for that purpose.

27a. In the light of the foregoing, his delegation considered that the matter should be considered in greater detail at the intergovernmental level. The Committee should not approve the financing of an operation that was as unclear as the one proposed.

28. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that his delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal and the idea of sharing the costs between the United Nations and the organizations concerned. The establishment of a Global Security Fund would enhance the cohesion of the United Nations system. The Advisory Committee had modified the original proposal in such a way that the Committee should be able to adopt it.

29. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that in every duty station where United Nations staff members served an individual known as the "designated official" was responsible for security matters. In the regional commissions, it was the Executive Secretary; for peace-keeping operations, it was the chief of operations; it might also be the resident representative of UNDP where one was present in the region.

30. Wherever United Nations bodies were situated, security plans provided for four contingencies: first, instructing the staff how to do in the case of an emergency; second, advising the staff to remain in their homes; third, advising the staff to assemble in an agreed safe place; lastly, evacuating the staff.

31. Replying to the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, he indicated that a committee comprising the "designated official" and the representatives of the various United Nations organizations in the country concerned would be responsible for security. United Nations and UNDP headquarters would, of course, be apprised of the gravity of the situation. The decision would be based on the judgement of individuals on the spot whose recommendations would be reviewed by the designated official.

32. As to the question asked concerning how the actual measures would be carried out, he indicated that, if radio communications were disrupted, for example, portable transceivers would be used. Where communication outside the country was possible, the main concern would be to establish contact between the country in question and the international communication network. The question of frequencies posed no problems since the United Nations had available to it a broad range of frequencies.

33. Dispatching security personnel to the scene would be resorted to only when there was no sufficiently specialized staff on the spot to advise on security measures.

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(Mr. Timbrell)

Thus, during the preceding 18 months, his office had sent specialists from Headquarters on two occasions to advise on security matters.

34. He considered that, at all events, it was preferable for funds to be available for the hiring of temporary guards when that was possible.

35. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report, he said that evacuation allowances and reimbursement for loss of personal property were paid to staff members by the specialized agencies and organizations which employed them. With regard to the acquisition of fixed security equipment, it was felt that the Fund should be used to purchase mobile equipment, so that when it was no longer required in one place it could be used elsewhere. Similarly, the Fund would not be used to hire permanent guards.

36. Mr. DEBATIN (Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management) said that the procedure proposed by the Advisory Committee to replace the Fund, i.e., to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding \$300,000 for biennium under section 28D of the programme budget, differed technically from the formula of a global security fund since the Secretary-General would have to take the necessary steps in the event of an emergency away from Headquarters and enter into the necessary commitments before requesting the other organizations to reimburse their share under the agreed cost-sharing formula. The amounts thus reimbursed would be included in an income section of the budget. The Advisory Committee's proposal met with the Secretary-General's full support.

37. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he understood the concern of the Secretary-General and the other executive heads for the security of staff. The matter was perhaps not as simple as it seemed since it directly affected the sovereignty of Member States, and respect for their territory and their right to control radio communications. Those legal aspects should be studied thoroughly by the relevant bodies before the Committee took a decision on the Advisory Committee's recommendation. His delegation was therefore not in a position to adopt that recommendation; if it was put to a vote, his delegation would abstain.

38. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) said that the Organization would not introduce radio communications equipment into any country without the authorization of the Government concerned.

39. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation since he was fully aware of the seriousness of security matters.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that, taking account of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, he proposed that the Fifth Committee should recommend the following draft resolution for the General Assembly's approval:

"The General Assembly,

"Having noted the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/36/24) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/36/7/Add.6),

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(The Chairman)

"1. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$300,000 in any one biennium under section 28D of the programme budget of the United Nations, initially under the terms of the General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, and to seek reimbursement from the other organizations in accordance with the agreed cost-sharing formula, as indicated in his report;

"2. Further authorizes the Secretary-General, should commitments in excess of \$300,000 be required in any biennium, to enter into such commitments with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to report all such security-related expenditures, and the related reimbursements, to the General Assembly in the context of his performance reports on the programme budget."

The text he had just read out would be incorporated in the draft resolution on the budget to be recommended by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly.

41. The Chairman's proposal was adopted.

42. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, if the Advisory Committee's recommendation had been put to the vote, his delegation would have been unable to support it.

Establishment of an Information Systems Unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (A/36/7/Add.7; A/C.5/36/6, A/C.5/36/7)

43. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee, said that the cost of operating the Unit in 1980-1981 was \$355,918, of which \$250,218 or 70.3 per cent was being met from extrabudgetary sources, including contributions from Member States. Should the General Assembly decide that the Unit should be continued, an amount of \$447,200 would have to be provided for 1982-1983.

44. The representatives of the Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee that it was unlikely that additional extrabudgetary resources would be found to finance the Unit. Accordingly, if the Unit was to be continued, its cost would have to be met from the regular budget.

45. When the Advisory Committee had considered the matter in 1980, it had concluded that there was no case for continuing the Information Systems Unit. The documents submitted to the Advisory Committee in 1981 had not convinced it to change its position.

46. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) said that he wished to bring up to date the information given in the evaluation report on the Development Information System in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (A/C.5/36/7), which had been prepared by a consultant. Firstly, the data base level, by cost of projects to which the documents in the System related, had increased by over 20 per cent since the evaluation, and currently exceeded \$1 billion. According to the consultant, the real figure might even be as much as 10 times higher. The number of users, which had been 539 at the time of the evaluation



currently stood at 700. The number of documents requested was 462, as against 270 at the beginning of the summer. Lastly, the number of computer search requests for the current year was 876. There was therefore a net increase in the use and capacity of the System. That was all the more remarkable since the consultant had pointed out that the System was functioning to almost full capacity.

47. In his report, the consultant considered two alternative solutions: either that a slight increase should be made in the resources allocated to the Development Information System in order to make the System genuinely useful and comprehensive, or that the idea should be abandoned. The consultant lamented the fact that the General Assembly appeared to have little realization of the importance of development information. He considered that the additional expenditure required for the establishment of a genuinely useful comprehensive system would be insignificant compared with the amounts allocated by the United Nations to other information systems. The Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems had rightly observed, however, that the consultant's conclusions prejudged the General Assembly's attitude and that, in recommending the abandonment of the Development Information System, the consultant had exceeded his terms of reference, which were to carry out an evaluation. It was the General Assembly's responsibility to decide whether or not the System should be maintained.

48. Mr. PEDERSON (Canada) observed that some of the conclusions of the consultant responsible for evaluating the Development Information System confirmed the need for such a system. The documents in the System emanated from projects representing expenditures of hundreds of millions of dollars. The value of such a data base lay primarily in making available background material for consultants and experts recruited to provide services in a particular region, and thus avoiding duplication. As the consultant had observed, the United Nations should be interested in any residual benefits that might accrue from expenditures of that magnitude, and that would require wide dissemination of the information in project reports.

49. The existence of a formal report on a particular project in the United Nations Bibliographic Information System did not lessen the value of the documents in the Development Information System, since such formal reports were often extremely concise, while the informal documentation gave more substantive information. The informal project reports contained a wealth of technical detail and, since they were produced before the formal report, the Development Information System could bring the projects in question to general notice some years before the final report was produced. The documents entered into the data base had thus been shown to be of value, and their wide dissemination would be beneficial.

50. The consultant had also pointed out that users considered the services provided to be valuable. The system had made some impact, particularly among the developing countries, and users had expressed a highly favourable opinion of the Development Information Abstracts and the results of the literature searches.

50a. Other findings of the consultant, however, were against the maintenance of the System. For example, a significant proportion of the projects represented in the Development Information System were also represented by more formal reports in the United Nations Bibliographic Information System. The consultant had nevertheless shown the unpublished documentation in the Development Information System to be valuable.

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(Mr. Pederson, Canada)

51. It also appeared that some of the items of documentation included in the System, for example films and conference papers, were accessible in other ways. The films were not included, however, in any other computerized data base and were therefore not available for computerized retrieval elsewhere than in the Development Information System. In addition, papers presented at conferences and subsequently published were available through the Development Information System several years before they were published.

52. The consultant considered that a number of data base items were of interest only to the institution for which they had been prepared. He appeared to have forgotten that the primary aim of the System was to ensure that advantage was taken of the experience gained in development-related work.

53. The consultant considered that the data base was unlikely to grow very rapidly, since the System received only a fraction of the informal documentation produced. More generally, he criticized the current reporting situation in the United Nations. The Canadian delegation was convinced that the Development Information System could in fact help remedy that situation. It was in the interest of the authors of reports that their work should be known, just as it was in the interest of the United Nations and the member countries that as much unpublished material as possible on development should be circulated. In that regard, he wished to ask the Secretariat whether it had the capacity to obtain reports and studies on field projects which did not currently reach Headquarters.

54. He also disputed several of the consultant's adverse conclusions on the Development Information System. It was questionable whether the case for the System was weakened because the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was to start its own information system in 1982. That development was possible only because the Centre had been given a copy of the Development Information System data base. He also pointed out that five issues of the Development Information Abstracts would appear in 1981.

55. With regard to user evaluation of services, it should be noted that three out of five respondents found the search results useful. Furthermore, the rather small demand for documents was not a significant factor since the abstracts published by the Unit were sufficiently detailed. The consultant had also omitted to note that requests for documents had tripled in 1981 compared to 1980. The consultant had not taken into account the fact that computer costs would decrease significantly in the future. He requested clarification from the Secretariat regarding the number of searches carried out and the number of document requests handled in 1981; that information should refute the assertion that the number of users had fallen compared to 1980.

56. Regarding the idea of a global development information system, he said that no system could claim to be global. The information contained in the unpublished reports of United Nations bodies could never become part of the common pool of development literature if the organizational unit responsible for computerizing it was discontinued. The consultant was afraid that the Unit would not be able to cope with the additional volume of demand if the Development Information System data base was expanded through the incorporation of related data bases into it. However, the Unit

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(Mr. Pederson, Canada)

had already, at the request of the regional economic commissions, begun to merge the development-related portions of their data bases into a single data base. Furthermore, the commissions had requested the Unit to co-ordinate the maintenance of the Macrothesaurus so that they could have available a common indexing tool. His delegation would like to know whether the increased demand generated by the enlargement of the System data base could be met from current staff resources.

57. It was clear that new development information activities were emerging, particularly in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. For its part, Canada was prepared to provide extrabudgetary funds for the maintenance of a multilingual Macrothesaurus. The Secretariat and the representatives of the regional commissions should elaborate on the possible role which the Unit could play in that area. Disbandment of the Unit might result in the squandering of millions of dollars.

58. The consultant concluded that an expenditure in the range of \$300,000 a year would probably be sufficient to expand the Development Information System into a more or less comprehensive system of access to development literature and noted that that level of expenditure was trivial compared with other expenditures on information systems within the United Nations. His delegation felt that the question of the future of the Information Systems unit should be seen against the priority to be given to individual information systems. In that connexion, the Committee would be in a better position if it knew the results of the special review of the work programme of the United Nations. He would like to know whether the Secretariat was in a position to suggest alternative solutions, should the Committee decide to stop financing the Unit.

58a. Under the present circumstances, he hoped that the Committee would delay its decision until it had all the answers to the questions posed.

59. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that his delegation had supported the establishment, and then the actual operation, of the Development Information System and the Information Systems Unit. The Swedish Government continued to believe in their usefulness but could only agree to contribute to their financing under the regular budget if the users and the Secretary-General showed their appreciation of the System and their readiness to support it. Since that condition had not been met, he stated with regret that his Government would make no further voluntary contributions to finance the activities of the Unit.

60. In order to leave all options open, the Swedish delegation considered that the Committee should decide on the future of the Information Systems Unit independently of the study on the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems which was being carried out by two experts for the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

61. Turning to the report by the Inter-Organization Board (A/C.5/36/7), he recognized the value of some of the suggestions which it had made with a view to expanding and refining the existing Development Information System. The consultant's recommendations were, however, generally unfavourable to the System, and the Swedish delegation agreed with the Board that it was not for the consultant to conclude that little recognition of the interest of development-related information existed in the General Assembly.

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62. Mr. NENTEN (Denmark) said that the consultant had indicated in his report (A/C.5/36/7) that more than 90 per cent of the information provided by the System could not be obtained by other means. Furthermore, the informal information contained in the data base included a considerable amount of technical details which might prove useful for new economic and social projects. According to the consultant, the existence of final reports in the United Nations Bibliographic Information System did not make the material in the Development Information System redundant. Finally, a virtually token increase in the Unit's budget might be sufficient to expand the Development Information System into a more or less comprehensive system of access to the development literature.

63. The Danish delegation wished to draw the attention of the Committee to the potential role of the Unit creating a centralized and easily accessible source of development information. Its computerized information system was compatible with other development-oriented information systems, it maintained the Macrothesaurus for Information Processing in the Field of Economic and Social Development and, following the Technical Expert Group Meeting on Common Indexing Tools, it was to become the central element of the programme for the maintenance of the Macrothesaurus and the promotion of information exchange.

64. The Danish delegation was convinced that the Unit's activities were justified and felt that it would be deplorable if the General Assembly decided to terminate them. His delegation therefore proposed that the decision on the future of the Information Systems Unit should be postponed until, as a result of consultations, a lasting solution had been found to the question of the financing and future structure of the Unit.

65. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) considered that the question of the Information Systems Unit was similar to that of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems, both bodies having been established by the Secretariat without the Member States expressing their opinion on the matter. If the Advisory Committee's recommendation was put to a vote, the Yugoslav delegation would vote in favour.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.