



UN/SA COLLECTION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BRODODININGRAT (Indonesia)

later: Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

- (a) COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARIAT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/36/495; A/C.5/36/CRP.4)
- (b) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/36/30, A/36/407 and Add.1, A/36/432 and Add.1 and 2; A/C.5/36/9, 19, 31; A/C.5/36/L.16, L.18-L.20, L.23; A/C.5/36/CRP.2)

1. Mr. GEPP (Brazil) said his delegation was happy to note that new desirable ranges for the geographical distribution of staff had been put into effect in January 1981, and that the recruitment of nationals of Member States that were unrepresented, under-represented or below the midpoint of their desirable ranges continued to be one of the Secretariat's major objectives (A/36/495, paras. 12 and 15). In its resolution 35/210, the General Assembly had reaffirmed the need to increase the representation of developing countries in senior and policy-formulating posts, while safeguarding the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Table C of document A/36/495 showed that, in comparison with groups A and B, group C (developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean) was under-represented in senior and policy-formulating posts, as well as in the number and percentage of female staff members. Table 7A gave an even more disturbing picture: in posts subject to geographical distribution, Latin America was represented by two Under-Secretaries-General, two Assistant Secretaries-General, four staff members at the D-2 level and 22 at the D-1 level.
2. In its resolution 33/143, the General Assembly had called for an increase in the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution to 25 per cent of the total over a four-year period in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. His delegation understood that the recruitment of women continued to be one of the major objectives of the Secretariat and that, during the reporting period 1980-1981, the 25 per cent target had almost been attained, mainly in the P-1 to P-5 levels. In the case of senior and policy-formulating posts results had not yet been satisfactory, as could be seen from table D.
3. Brazil had joined in the consensus on resolution 35/210 and had strongly supported the recommendation that recruitment at the P-1 and P-2 levels should, as a rule, be through competitive examinations. His delegation welcomed the organization of competitive examinations in Brazil and Suriname, as well as in countries of Africa and Western Europe. The annex to resolution 35/210 referred to the importance of timely publicity regarding vacancies and the need to incorporate job descriptions and other relevant information in vacancy announcements. In some cases, however, there was not enough time between the date of issue of the vacancy notice and the deadline for applications to allow delegations to consult with their national authorities in order to select potential candidates. Furthermore, the usual foot-note to the vacancy announcements ("This vacancy may meanwhile be filled by a United Nations staff member or by a candidate from the roster") could be discouraging to potential candidates, who might be inclined to believe that the vacancy had already been or would shortly be filled. His delegation had the feeling

(Mr. Gepp, Brazil)

that in some cases, particularly ones involving senior or policy-making posts, vacancy announcements were issued only for the sake of compliance with resolution 35/210, after the posts in question had been earmarked for particular candidates from countries that were not always unrepresented or under-represented. The exceptions referred to in paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's report (A/36/495) would seem to bear out that suspicion.

4. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that staff regulation 4.4 did not and should not exclude recruitment from outside the Secretariat and that special measures might be required for a short period. Consideration should be given to the proposed system of earmarking 40 per cent of available vacancies for the recruitment of nationals of unrepresented and under-represented Member States and 50 per cent for qualified staff of the Secretariat. In that case, it would also be advisable to modify the procedures for vacancy announcements: some announcements would be for external candidates only and some for internal promotion.

5. With respect to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the application of the principle of equitable geographical distribution (A/36/407), his delegation agreed that there were many factors hindering the proper application of that principle (para. 76). It supported recommendations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (para. 77), which could lead to positive results for unrepresented or under-represented States.

6. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) welcomed the study on career development prepared by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) (A/36/30, annex I). His delegation believed that the development of an efficient and competent international civil service was essential to the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations. It agreed with the Secretary-General that Member States must concentrate increasingly on enhancing the efficiency, competence and integrity of the international civil service. Sierra Leone fully supported the guidelines on the fundamental principles underlying the concept of a single, unified international civil service. In that connexion, the decision by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to grant a 3 per cent salary increase to its General Service staff in Geneva was contrary to the recommendations of ICSC and would undermine the Commission's mandate to establish a United Nations common system in the international civil service. In view of the nature and functions of ILO, it should set an example for other organizations in the development of a single, unified system under the established rules and procedures. The General Assembly should request ILO to review its position on that matter.

7. His delegation would refrain from specific comments on the subject of the highest-paid national civil service. It believed, however, that any attempt at the present stage to replace the United States Federal Civil Service as the comparator under the Noblemaire principle would complicate the issue and delay a decision on the question of conditions of service of the Professional and higher categories.

8. The JIU reports constituted useful inputs to the efforts of ICSC in the areas of career development and equitable geographical distribution of posts in the United Nations common system. His delegation hoped that, despite the apparent

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(Mr. Bangura, Sierra Leone)

misunderstanding between ICSC and JIU arising out of a lack of adequate consultation, the General Assembly would be able, on the basis of their complementary efforts and recommendations, to take a decision at the thirty-seventh session on career development and equitable geographical distribution.

9. In his statement at the 61st meeting, the Chairman of the Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas had outlined some of the circumstances that had necessitated the establishment of the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/211. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to take interim measures, within the existing administrative structure, to ensure that the Office of Personnel Services had the authority necessary to implement effectively the personnel policies outlined in the relevant Assembly resolutions. His delegation thanked the Secretary-General for promptly complying with that request. The Secretary-General's bulletin of 24 December 1980 (ST/SGB/180) indicated that the Office of Personnel Services would be directly responsible to the Secretary-General.

10. Although the Committee of Governmental Experts had been unable to complete its tasks at the current session, it had been successful in setting up a useful framework within which to carry out its mandate. His delegation attached particular importance to paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 of that Committee's report (A/36/44 and Corr.1). In view of the paramount importance of the Committee's work, its mandate should be extended. However, the deadline for the completion of its task should be early 1982. Extension of the mandate should be accompanied by continuation of the interim measures called for in resolution 35/211.

11. His delegation noted that resolution 35/210 and the interim measures adopted by the Secretary-General had enabled the Office of Personnel Services to carry out its responsibilities. Sierra Leone was gratified to learn that some progress had been made by the Secretary-General in meeting the targets set in resolution 35/210, especially with respect to recruitment. However, it would like the Secretary-General to adopt more concrete measures, through the Office of Personnel Services, to redress the imbalance between the developed and the developing countries in the composition of the Secretariat. In the course of the biennium 1982-1983, Sierra Leone would like to see significant improvements in the representation of the developing countries in the senior and policy-formulating posts of the Secretariat. It therefore looked forward to the Secretary-General's reports to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of resolutions 35/210 and 35/211.

12. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) agreed with the Secretary-General that Member States must try increasingly to concentrate on enhancing the efficiency, competence and integrity of the international civil service and to ensure respect for the exclusively international character of its responsibilities. His delegation was gratified to learn that tighter procedures had been attained through co-operation between the substantive departments and the Office of Personnel Services. It was essential that the principles of the international

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(Mr. Papendorp, United States)

civil service should be the basis for the operations of the Secretariat. The continuation of an effective international civil service called for two components: universal external recruitment of the best-qualified people, and the internal advancement of Secretariat staff. The primary responsibility for achieving a better balance in the composition of the Secretariat rested with Member States. Instead of relying on the earmarking of posts, they should nominate their best candidates to the Office of Personnel Services.

13. Career development continued to be of the utmost concern to his delegation, which endorsed the Secretary-General's definition of career development referred to in paragraph 76 and 77 of his report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/36/495). Career development was not limited to the Professional category; the Secretary-General's definition applied equally to the General Service category. His delegation looked forward to more information, at the thirty-seventh session, on progress made since the establishment of the career development system and on the situation with regard to the General Service category.

14. With respect to co-ordination between ICSC and the Secretariat in connexion with the preparations for the next General Service salary survey in New York, he said that bench-mark positions should be fully described and clear standards for those positions should be developed and approved before the salary comparison study was undertaken.

15. The competitive examination programme for movement from the General Service and related categories to the Professional category had had a trial run. The time, effort and professionalism that had gone into the structure of the programme could not be minimized. His delegation believed, however, that it would be appropriate for the Office of Personnel Services to scrutinize and evaluate the implementation of the programme to date. The United States maintained that a shorter period in proven service, such as two years in the General Service category, should be one of the qualifications for candidates, and that a higher percentage of the total posts should be available for appointments under the programme.

16. Although in its resolution 35/210 the General Assembly had reaffirmed the need to increase the representation of developing countries in senior and policy-formulating posts, it had also sought to safeguard the principle of equitable geographical distribution in accordance with its relevant resolutions. Table C of the Secretary-General's report on the composition of the Secretariat (A/36/495) showed that the developing countries, far from being under-represented, were in fact represented above their targeted midpoints, even with the enlarged quotas resulting from the revision of the formula for determining desirable ranges. The table showed that group A (Africa and Asia) and group C (Latin America and the Caribbean) were entitled to 39.1 per cent of the positions subject to geographical distribution but actually had 1.4 per cent more, with an even higher proportion - 6.2 per cent more - of the senior positions. On the other hand, countries with developed market economies, while over-represented by 1.5 per cent in terms of total staff, were under-represented at the D-1 and higher levels. That was a continuation of the trend indicated at the thirty-fifth session. In that context, and with regard to the JIU report on equitable geographical distribution (A/36/407),

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(Mr. Papendorp, United States)

his delegation fully subscribed to the remarks made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services in stating the position of the Secretary-General.

17. The United States commended the Office of Personnel Services on the progress made in the past year in the recruitment of women. The proportional increase from 18.83 per cent in June 1980 to 21.59 per cent in June 1981, although a long way from parity and still short of the target of 25 per cent, was a praiseworthy accomplishment in only one year.

18. His delegation doubted the wisdom of amending the staff rules governing maternity leave. Granting four months of leave without pay, charged neither to annual leave nor to sick leave and without even requiring the staff member to have worked for any particular period of time, would suggest that women were not being fully utilized in carrying out work of the Organization. In other words, there might be women on the rolls, but not as many actually performing productive work - an observation supported in past by the large sums requested in the proposed programme budget for temporary assistance because of maternity leave.

19. His delegation supported the actions being taken by the Secretary-General to attain equality of the sexes in the Secretariat. It continued to believe that there would be even more progress in the advancement of women if the Secretary-General and the heads of all the agencies in the United Nations system were to designate senior officials to perform co-ordinating functions, including the establishment of specific policies for the careers of the women in the international civil service.

20. His delegation was grateful to the Office of Personnel Services for the restoration of the information circular entitled "Appointments, promotions and other staff changes". It noted with appreciation that the circular would be issued quarterly.

21. Paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report on respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (A/C.5/36/31) indicated that it was based on information from 21 bodies in the United Nations system; yet the recorded or inferred violations had affected only eight organizations. His delegation would like to know whether the other organizations had reported no violations, which would be gratifying. If, however, there were organizations which had not contributed at all to the report, his delegation would strongly urge them to participate in future. Most of the cases were tersely reported, with very little detail on what efforts had been made by the organizations to protect the staff. He hoped that the report submitted at the thirty-seventh session would elaborate on such efforts and give additional details on the responses of Governments.

22. His delegation fully agreed with the statement made by the Legal Counsel. Legally and politically, a violation of the immunity of an international civil servant was an attack on the United Nations itself. One could not maintain support for the institution and fail to speak out against those attacks upon it.

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(Mr. Papendorp, United States)

The ultimate issue was the survival of the United Nations. All who supported a global international organization must be prepared to rally to its support when it was attacked. Draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.16 was the minimal acceptable response under the circumstances. As a founding member and staunch supporter of the United Nations, the United States pledged its continued dedication to support the Organization and its Secretariat and to honour its obligations as host country.

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 29. Conference and library services (continued)

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, in paragraph 29.16 of the proposed programme budget (A/36/6, vol. II), the Secretary-General proposed the reclassification of two Professional posts in the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section of the Interpretation and Meetings Division, namely, one P-4 post to P-5 for the Chief of Section and one P-2 post to P-3 for the Chief of the Planning Unit. The Advisory Committee had recommended acceptance of the reclassification of the P-4 post, but not of the P-2 post. At the 62nd meeting, the representative of Cuba had proposed that the Committee should approve both reclassifications, which would entail an increase of \$31,000 in the estimates. The United States representative had requested a vote on the Cuban proposal.

24. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation would vote against the Cuban proposal. The United States supported the concept of economy and shared the concern throughout the United Nations system to maintain the validity of the reclassification system. His delegation's vote would be consistent with the position of the United States concerning reclassifications not endorsed by the Advisory Committee.

25. The proposal was adopted by 42 votes to 17, with 18 abstentions.

26. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that the Committee, before taking a decision on his delegation's proposal concerning the number of posts in the Arabic Service of the Translation Division, must be clear regarding the implications of that proposal. He therefore asked the Secretariat to clarify whether nine additional posts would be required in the Arabic Service in 1983 in order to maintain its strength at the 1980 level.

27. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) said that the development of the Arabic Service was based on the assumption that its workload would be approximately the same as that of the Spanish Service. It was proposed that in 1983 there should be 11 more posts in the Arabic Service than in the Spanish Service. Making allowance for the built-in

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(Mr. Lewandowski)

concept of limiting revision and virtually tripling the number of P-5 posts, that manning table should be sufficient to do the job.

28. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that his delegation was anxious to know how many additional translators would be required in 1983 to ensure that the Arabic Service was adequately staffed to do the job without having to resort to freelances, as the use of the latter was not practical in the case of Arabic. As noted in the last preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 35/225, the problems confronting the various language groups were not of a comparable nature and the more recently introduced official languages required particular attention.

29. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services) referred the representative of Algeria to document A/C.5/36/54, paragraph 11, which indicated how, in the event that the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council took the action requested in resolution 35/219, the workload would be further increased. The translation staff estimated for 1983 was indicated in document A/C.5/36/CRP.3, while the expected workload was reflected in the last column of the table contained in paragraph 29.9 of the proposed programme budget. By 1983, the Arabic Service would have more staff than any other language service except the Chinese.

30. Recourse was had to the freelance market only during peaks in the workload - for example, during sessions of the General Assembly. Difficulties occasionally arose, but the Secretariat was building up a reliable roster of freelance translators. As ACABQ had pointed out, it would be very uneconomical to give up the use of freelances completely.

31. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) asked the Director of the Budget Division to clarify the financial implications of the Algerian proposal.

32. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that the financial implications of a proposal relating to the Arabic language which, on the basis of the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 and taking account of document A/C.5/36/54, would involve the restoration of five posts at the P-3 level would be an increase in expenditure under section 29 of \$452,000, offset by \$92,000 under section 31.

33. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the Director of the Budget Division to explain the grounds on which he had estimated that the posts would be at the P-3 level and that the additional cost would be \$452,000. The Algerian proposal had been made on the assumption that there would be no self-revision in the Arabic Service. If that was the thrust of the proposal, the effect of the restoration of nine posts should be a return to the level of posts which had existed in 1980. The upward movement in all the language services had been justified by the concept of self-revision. He invited the Director to provide the Committee with clear-cut information on the financial implications of restoring posts to their 1980 level.

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34. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that his estimate of the financial implications of the Algerian proposal had been based on the assumption that its intent was to maintain the staffing level of the Arabic Service as it had stood in 1980.
35. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly had adopted a proposal that posts in all the language services should be reclassified on the basis that the additional function of self-revision would be performed. A proposal had now been made which would have the effect of restoring the number of posts to the 1980 level while eliminating the concept of self-revision. It was therefore self-evident that the distribution of posts in the Arabic Section should be restored to the pattern which had existed in 1980.
36. He requested that the Budget Division should provide information on the financial implications of the Algerian proposal based on restoration of the 1980 level.
37. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said the clear implication of document A/C.5/36/54 and Corr.1 and 2, read in conjunction with General Assembly resolution 34/226, was that Arabic language services must not be curtailed. What was at issue was the number of staff members the Arabic Service should have. There could be no question of self-revision in the Arabic Service, but the Service should certainly not suffer because of that. The point at issue related to the restoration of the five remaining posts. A decision should be postponed until the Committee was informed of the full financial implications.
38. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that if, in principle, the Committee wished to consider re-establishing the five posts, the Secretary-General should consider how the additional posts would be used and the Budget Division should cost those additional posts. He saw no reason why the Committee should not take a decision on section 29 as a whole; the implications of the Algerian proposal could, if necessary, be incorporated at a later date.
39. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was not opposed in principle to the Algerian proposal if its intent was to maintain the number and level of posts in the Arabic Service as they had been in 1980 and on the basis of revision but not self-revision. If the concept of self-revision was eliminated, the level of posts must clearly be reduced. It was not possible to divorce reclassification from the number of posts.
40. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) observed that professional linguists could be compared to members of other professions, such as doctors, and there should clearly be a difference between their rewards at the beginning and at the end of their careers.
41. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt), associating his delegation with the comments of other Arabic-speaking delegations, said that the issue was clear and simple. The proposal to strengthen the Arabic translation services had been made because

(Mr. El Safty, Egypt)

there had been complaints about the inadequate level of those services. The Committee could not go back on General Assembly resolution 35/225, and his delegation objected to the false interpretations that had been placed on it. It had been explained at the preceding session that reclassification was not linked with self-revision, but was required in order to take account of such factors as the lack of promotion prospects for language staff and the consequent adverse effects on their morale. Resolution 35/225 had dealt with self-revision and reclassification as two separate issues and had stipulated that reclassification should apply to all languages equally. Requiring the Arabic Service to revert to the 1980 level would contravene that resolution by treating Arabic as a second-class language, and the Arabic-speaking delegations could not accept such a situation.

42. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that the discussion had thrown some light on a situation in which the decision to be taken by the Committee could have been misinterpreted. The interpretation given by the Director of the Budget Division was precisely the same as his delegation's interpretation, and it was on that basis that the Committee was called upon to take a decision.

43. The CHAIRMAN explained that the proposal before the Committee was that the staffing table of 73 posts in the Arabic translation services, approved for 1980, should be retained. The Secretary-General's initial estimate had provided for 64 posts, and the revised estimates for a further four posts. The Algerian proposal would therefore require approval for five additional posts. It had been calculated by the Budget Division, and confirmed by the representative of Algeria, that the additional amount required would be \$452,000.

44. He invited the Committee to take a decision on the Algerian proposal.

45. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) requested that a vote should be taken on the proposal.

46. Mr. MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, recalled that at the time of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/225 his delegation had stressed that attention should be paid to the various problems confronting the language services, particularly in the case of the most recently introduced official languages. It had been shown that the Arabic language deserved special attention, as was confirmed by the Secretary-General's proposal that four of the posts in question should be retained. His delegation would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal, which was fully in conformity with Assembly resolution 35/225.

47. Mr. SAGRERA (Spain) said that his delegation had always supported the interests of the Arabic language services and, in keeping with the historical ties of friendship between Spain and the Arab countries, would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal.

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(Mr. Sagrera, Spain)

48. He expressed serious concern at the situation of the Spanish Service, whose strength compared unfavourably with that of other language services, particularly in view of the workload described by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services. His delegation reserved its right to revert to the matter at an appropriate time.

49. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal. Peru, which had traditional links of friendship and common interests with the Arabic-speaking countries, viewed the proposal as the most effective means of ensuring that the Arabic language was given its rightful place in the United Nations.

50. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Spain with respect to the Spanish language services.

51. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal for the reasons he had already explained. The proposal, if adopted, should be implemented in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/225.

52. Mr. CULLEN (Argentina) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal. The Organization should make every effort to ensure that all the official languages were placed on an equal footing.

53. He shared the concern expressed by the representatives of Spain and Peru with respect to the Spanish language services.

54. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation had always maintained that economy and efficiency should be paramount in the work of the United Nations. It would therefore be unable to support the Algerian proposal, which went beyond the Secretary-General's estimate of the requirements of the Arabic translation services. It nevertheless considered that all the working languages of the Organization should be treated equally with a view to ensuring that all documentation could be produced promptly and in good quality in all languages.

55. Mr. HAND (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was among those that had given their full support to the provision of Arabic language services in the United Nations. However, the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services had plainly stated that the posts referred to in the Algerian proposal were not required and that the Secretary-General had not requested them. It had also been explained that the retention of the posts would be uneconomical as compared with the occasional use of available temporary assistance. His delegation therefore objected on principle to the Algerian proposal, which, together with the decision taken at the preceding meeting on the staffing of the ICSC secretariat, raised serious doubts about the direction in which the Committee was moving. His delegation would vote against the proposal.

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56. Mr. KBAIER (Tunisia) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal that the five posts in question should be retained.

57. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) agreed with the comments made by the United Kingdom representative and said that his delegation, while recognizing the importance of adequate language services, would regretfully vote against the Algerian proposal. It would have been happy to support the Advisory Committee's recommendations although, on procedural grounds, it failed to understand why the Secretary-General's proposal in document A/C.5/36/54 had not been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

58. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that his delegation would support the Algerian proposal. The Secretary-General had made it clear in his report (A/C.5/36/54 and Corr.1 and 2) that the Secretariat was not at present in a position to assess the resources required for Arabic language services. The staffing of those services should therefore revert to the 1980 numbers.

59. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) asked whether it would be in accordance with the Financial Regulations and with normal procedures for the Committee to vote on the Algerian proposal, bearing in mind that the Secretary-General had not requested the resources in question and the proposal had not been placed before the Advisory Committee. The Fifth Committee should avoid a situation in which resources were provided when the procedures dictated otherwise. Some advice was needed from the Secretariat on that point.

60. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee was in the process of voting. He would therefore consider the Canadian representative's statement as an explanation of vote.

61. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal.

62. Mr. VOSS RUBIO (Uruguay) recalled that, in its general statement on item 100, his delegation had indicated that the strength of the Arabic Service should be the same as that of the other language services. It would therefore vote in favour of the Algerian proposal.

63. His delegation associated itself with the comments made by the representative of Spain with respect to the Spanish language services.

64. Mr. PEREZ (Chile) said that his delegation, having always upheld the principle of equality of the official languages of the Organization, would support the Algerian proposal, which was just and legitimate. It viewed with concern the different treatment accorded to some languages and shared the view expressed by the representative of Spain and others concerning the Spanish language.

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65. Miss ZONICLE (Bahamas) said that her delegation would support the Algerian proposal, on the understanding that there would be no request in the near future for temporary assistance in the Arabic language services.

66. Mr. GEPP (Brazil) said that his delegation had been convinced by the arguments of the Arabic-speaking delegations and would vote in favour of the Algerian proposal. Special attention should be given to the Arabic language in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/225.

67. At the request of the representative of Peru, a recorded vote was taken on the proposal to approve five P-3 posts for the Arabic Service at United Nations Headquarters.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam.

68. The proposal was adopted by 69 votes to 9, with 18 abstentions.

69. Mr. MERIEUX (France), speaking in explanation of vote, said his delegation considered that the Arabic language services should be on the same level as the other language services and had therefore voted in favour of the Algerian proposal. It nevertheless associated itself with the comments made by other delegations concerning the procedure that had been followed. The views of ACABQ should have been sought both on that matter and on the decision taken at the preceding meeting with respect to the ICSC secretariat.

70. Mr. ORON (Israel) said that his delegation had voted against the Algerian proposal on financial grounds. Its decision to do so in no way reflected its position with respect to the Arabic language, which was an official language in Israel.

71. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the Algerian proposal because it strongly upheld the principle of equitable treatment for all the official languages of the United Nations. The proposal was consistent with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 35/225.

72. Mr. RALLIS (Greece) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the proposal because it considered that equal treatment should be given to all the official languages of the United Nations. It nevertheless associated itself with the reservations that had been expressed on the procedural aspects.

73. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the Algerian proposal on procedural grounds.

74. Mr. HICKEY (Australia) said that, while supporting the even-handed treatment of official languages in the United Nations system, his delegation had difficulties with the budgetary and procedural aspects of the Algerian proposal and had therefore decided to abstain from voting on it.

75. Mr. MIYASHITA (Japan) said that, while appreciating the importance of the Arabic language, his delegation had been unable to agree with the procedures that had been followed. It had therefore voted against the Algerian proposal.

76. Mr. MOJTAHED (Iran) and Mr. GEBRE-MEDHIN (Ethiopia) said that, if they had been present when the vote was taken, they would have voted in favour of the proposal.

77. Mr. FARIS (Jordan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the Algerian proposal because of the need to develop the Arabic language, which was a recently introduced official language of the United Nations and should therefore be given special consideration in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/226 and 35/225, and also because of the need for communication among Member States as a means of achieving the Organization's goals.

78. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on section 29 as a whole.

79. An appropriation in the amount of \$234,448,000 under section 29 for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved in first reading without a vote.

80. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, for the reasons he had adduced during the substantive discussion of section 29, his delegation would have abstained if a vote had been taken on the section as a whole.

81. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations in document A/36/7/Add.11, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that appropriations totalling \$9,965,500 would be required under sections 17 (\$1,013,800), 18 (\$499,000), 28C (\$56,400),

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28D (\$470,000), 28I (\$191,500), 28J (\$5,500), 29A (\$2,778,500), 29B (\$2,647,000), 29C (\$1,449,900), 29D (\$23,900) and 32 (\$830,000). In addition, an appropriation of \$1,667,900 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase of the same amount in the estimates under income section 1 (Income from staff assessments).

82. It was so decided.

83. The CHAIRMAN suggested, in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, that the Fifth Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on job classification and career development of language staff (A/C.5/36/4).

84. It was so decided.

Section 31. Staff assessment

Income section 1. Income from staff assessment

85. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposal in his initial estimates, the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation in the amount of \$226,768,300 under section 31. That represented a reduction of \$3,178,300 in the Secretary-General's request. However, as a result of actions taken by the Fifth Committee under various sections of the proposed programme budget, in particular sections 6, 13, 28 and 29, the Advisory Committee's recommendation should be revised upwards, making a total of \$226,900,900. For the same reason, its recommendation of \$230,698,000 under income section 1 would have to be revised upwards by an amount of \$132,600. He pointed out, in reply to a question from the representative of the United States, that income from staff assessment included \$3,929,700 under income section 3.

86. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$226,900,900 under section 31 and the estimate of \$230,830,600 recommended by the Advisory Committee under income section 1 for the biennium 1982-1983 were approved in first reading without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 103: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (A/36/641)
- (b) FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/C.5/36/23)

(c) IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE BUDGETS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (A/C.5/33/47); A/C.5/36/L.24)

87. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that administrative and budgetary co-ordination within the United Nations system, which was extremely important not only from the standpoint of management but also as a political prerequisite for making the system more effective, had an enormous untapped potential for development in such areas as the use and management of funds, personnel questions, including the pension system, the development of an integrated information system, and programme co-ordination.

88. In 1973, United Nations expenditures from the regular budget had amounted to only \$187,898,000 and those of the specialized agencies and IAEA to \$269,305,000, making a total for the entire system of \$457,203,000. By 1981, expenditures from the regular budget of the United Nations had reached \$595,883,000 and those of the specialized agencies and IAEA \$831,897, or a total of \$1,427,780,000. Furthermore, it appeared that extrabudgetary expenditures had already exceeded expenditures from regular budgets, so that total annual expenditures of more than \$3 billion could be anticipated for the entire system. Since those funds were deposited in different banks, the United Nations system was deprived of their capitalization. It was therefore urgent to establish a bank for the United Nations system similar to the Joint Pension Fund, in order to capitalize United Nations funds for the benefit of the system itself and thereby ease its financial crisis. His delegation believed that such a form of financial co-ordination should be considered by the General Assembly as soon as possible.

89. Co-ordination within the United Nations system required not only co-ordination of the expenditure and capitalization of regular and extrabudgetary funds but also co-ordination of all plans and programmes within the system. Since the Advisory Committee's mandate in that regard was limited to examining the administrative budget of specialized agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies, his delegation believed that there was also a need to ensure intergovernmental co-ordination by broadening the mandate of the Committee for Programming and Co-ordination, because CPC was an organ of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

90. Co-ordination within the United Nations system was not an end in itself. Its purpose was to minimize duplication of effort and maximize the system's effectiveness in planning, programming, budgeting, financing, monitoring of the development of human resources and evaluation of activities that benefited Member States.

91. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that the report of the Advisory Committee (A/36/641) was extremely useful. His delegation hoped that table G, which was particularly interesting, would continue to appear in future reports.

(Mr. Papendorp, United States)

92. As indicated in paragraph 10 of the report, the United Nations system was responsible for expenditures totalling \$3.8 billion annually, and his delegation wondered whether it was getting its money's worth. While that sum was not enormous considering the range of problems with which the system had to cope in so many parts of the world, the fact remained that the total expenditure of the United Nations system was greater than the budgets of many of its member countries. Given the scope and dimensions of the machinery operating within the system, every effort must be made to co-ordinate agency activities so as to avoid duplication of effort and waste. ACC was a reasonably effective mechanism for interagency communication. ICSC helped to promote common system-wide standards for employment of staff. JIU was a useful tool in investigating interagency problems and making recommendations for their solution. A key role was played by ACABQ, which did not attempt to usurp the functions of the budgetary committees of the agencies but rather explored, in its hearings with the agencies on their budgets, problems common to several agencies and presented in concise form information which would be useful to other agencies. Its reports over the years provided one of the best surveys available of the history and development of the budgets of each specialized agency.

93. Another point which must be referred to was the importance of co-ordination within Governments, whether large or small. The diverse interests of the United Nations and its specialized agencies reflected similar diverse interests within individual Governments, and it was therefore not uncommon for one Government to speak with different voices in different organizations. Unremitting efforts were required to ensure that the different interests within a Government all moved in the same direction at the same time.

94. With regard to paragraph 6 of the report, his delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's proposed changes in its reporting cycle.

95. Lastly, his delegation would like to have the comments of ICSC on the ILO innovation of financial rewards for meritorious and long service referred to in paragraphs 35 to 38 of the report, particularly since that appeared to constitute a de facto and unilateral enlargement of the salary scale.

96. Mr. MORET (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.24, said that his delegation had first proposed a study of the impact of inflation and monetary instability on the United Nations budget at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, and the problem had since grown even more serious because soaring inflation in recent years had led to mounting costs. IMF data for 1981 showed that the developed capitalist countries faced a serious decline in world trade and in over-all production. The United States, being unable to curb inflation at home, exported it abroad, thereby exacerbating the unemployment problem in other countries. The rising curve of consumer prices in the major capitalist countries and the steep increase in interest rates, particularly in the United States, were only symptoms of the failure to curb inflation in the capitalist world.

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(Mr. Moret, Cuba)

97. The impact of that situation - which meant ever-increasing expenditures for equipment, services, staff and the like - on the United Nations budget was tremendous. The problem was further aggravated by fluctuations of the United States dollar. The result was that Member States had to pay increased contributions to correct a situation for which they were not responsible.

98. Draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.24 was the outcome of extensive consultations aimed at producing a text which would be more acceptable than the one proposed by his delegation at the thirty-third session, but the purpose remained the same, namely, to foster a clearer understanding of the unfair burden which inflation placed on so many countries. Since the draft resolution requested nothing more than the preparation of a detailed study, it should be readily acceptable to most delegations.

The meeting was suspended at 5.55 p.m. and resumed at 6.35 p.m.

99. Mr. Godfrey (New Zealand) took the Chair.

100. Mr. VOSS RUBIO (Uruguay) said, with regard to the administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and IAEA, that his delegation was particularly satisfied with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/36/641) and had no criticism to make of any of its recommendations.

101. As for the impact of inflation on the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system, any additional expenses due to inflation - which obviously were difficult to calculate - must be prorated among Member States strictly on the basis of the principle of equitable contribution according to capacity to pay, as reflected in the scale of assessments. The causes of inflation must not be attributed to the economic system of particular countries, not only because that was technically incorrect but also because it violated the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility for contributions embodied in the Financial Regulations. The Committee now had before it draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.24 aimed at obtaining, if possible, a final decision by the General Assembly on the matter.

102. Lastly, his delegation favoured the early establishment of a single administrative tribunal, which would help the functioning of the United Nations common system. It was disappointed that the Secretariat's consultations had not yet been completed, but it anticipated the eventual adoption of a decision to that effect.

103. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although the reports of the Advisory Committee were a valuable source of information, they tended to contain little in the way of conclusions or recommendations aimed at ensuring effective administrative and budgetary co-ordination within the United Nations system. A number of fundamental and urgent problems remained

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(Mr. Palamarchuk, USSR)

outstanding; they included the question of reduction of the growth rates of regular budgets; problems relating to the effect of inflation and currency fluctuations on the budgets of organizations; harmonization and standardization of the budgetary process and questions of budgetary classification, accounting and reporting; problems relating to the financing of new types of activities, with particular reference to funds released when overlapping activities or activities which were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective were terminated; and the need to elaborate uniform criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of implementation of programmes or programme elements. The most pressing problem was reducing the growth rates of the budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and ensuring that those organizations did not increase in size.

104. The reports before the Committee indicated that little had so far been done to bring about administrative and budgetary co-ordination within the system in the interests of more effective and economical use of the material and human resources made available by Member States for United Nations activities. At the same time, his delegation was pleased to note that there was a trend in the United Nations itself towards improved financial discipline and that a number of specialized agencies, such as IMCO, WMO, IAEA and UNESCO, planned to reduce their budgetary expenditures for 1982. However, it was extremely unsatisfactory that certain other international organizations maintained an extremely high budgetary growth rate; for example, in the case of FAO the estimated budget increase was approximately 32 per cent, while for ITU it was 18.5 per cent and for WIPO 11.5 per cent. His delegation wondered why some organizations, availing themselves of the convenient formula of "full budgeting", failed to recognize the need to introduce more effective deployment of their resources. The unacceptably high budgetary growth rates of a large number of international organizations imposed a heavy financial burden on member States, which were unable to fulfil their financial obligations to those organizations on time.

105. Evaluation of growth rates in the regular budgets was greatly complicated by the fact that the reports did not contain comprehensive data on the growth caused by expansion of the activities of organizations and increases in the number of staff in the specialized agencies; nor did they give figures for the growth resulting from the effect of inflation and currency fluctuations on budgets. It was noteworthy that the vast majority of delegations expressed concern at the increasing effects of inflation on regular budgets whenever the subject was raised in the Fifth Committee. The reports prepared by the Secretariat merely drew attention to the consequences of inflation, without recommending any measures which would bring about even a partial solution to the problem. His delegation had often stressed that not all States were responsible for the inflationary process. Many Member States had long been advocating that the increased expenditures occasioned by inflation should be covered through economies and adjustments within the budget or by contributions, including voluntary contributions, from the developed market-economy countries where inflation was a factor in causing additional expenditure by the United Nations

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(Mr. Palamarchuk, USSR)

organizations located in their territories. It was a fact that those countries derived significant financial benefit from the presence of such organizations; for example, figures published by the New York City Commission for the United Nations showed that the United Nations presence in New York had contributed more than \$690 million to the city's economy in 1980, while Geneva benefited to the extent of 1.5 billion francs annually from the organizations located there. International organizations therefore had a right to expect that host countries would bear a special responsibility for the increasing United Nations expenditure caused by inflation and currency fluctuations.

106. His delegation believed that there was much scope for administrative and budgetary co-ordination within the United Nations system. In particular, a satisfactory solution to the problem of reducing documentation would permit organizations to make substantial savings; and some progress was being achieved in that regard by UNESCO, FAO and WHO, whose experience indicated that it was possible, through effective use of resources, to achieve a significant reduction in unnecessary expenditure in the United Nations system as a whole.

107. It would also be highly desirable to focus attention on the problem of the expanding number of posts in international organizations. It was well known that staff salaries accounted for some 80 per cent of expenditure from the regular budgets of such organizations. One of the most important ways in which savings could be achieved was therefore by curtailing the extravagant expansion of the United Nations Secretariat. The experience of ILO, for example, had shown that it was possible, despite a significant reduction in the number of posts, to maintain and even improve upon the previous level of technical assistance provided by that organization. FAO was also planning to reduce the size of its staff in 1982. In the light of such examples, many delegations had rightly emphasized that the correct policy in the current circumstances was to take steps to ensure more effective deployment of existing staff. His delegation therefore thought that it would be worth while to impose a moratorium on increases in staff throughout the United Nations system, with a view to improving the productivity of existing staff through better organization of work, improved management methods, higher standards of performance and greater responsibility.

108. The true indicator of effective co-ordination in the United Nations system was the extent to which resources could be made available, through savings, for expediting the most urgently needed programmes and most important activities of the organizations of the system.

109. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) welcomed the excellent report of the Advisory Committee (A/36/641) on a highly technical and important subject. The report contained much useful information on the United Nations system as a whole, especially in the general observations and comparative tables in section II. He noted in particular table G, concerning voluntary funds administered by members of the United Nations system of organizations, which had been included

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(Mr. Abraszewski, Poland)

as a result of suggestions made in the Fifth Committee at the preceding session. The suggested change to a biennial system of reporting by the Advisory Committee discussed in paragraphs 5 and 6 was in line with the wishes of a number of delegations and with General Assembly resolutions 33/142 A and 35/114. He understood that in its future reports the Advisory Committee would seek to identify projects that were ripe for development and also budgetary developments in individual organizations of potential interest to others in the United Nations system. He looked forward with interest to the ACABQ studies of special topics every second year.

AGENDA ITEM 105: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES (continued) (A/C.5/36/L.22, L.25, L.26)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

110. The CHAIRMAN recalled the proposal by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Japan that the Committee should recommend that consideration of the draft standard rules of procedure for United Nations conferences annexed to document A/36/199 and Corr.1 should be deferred to the thirty-seventh session and that the question, in view of its legal aspects, should then be allocated to the Sixth Committee. If there was no objection, he would take it that the proposal was adopted.

111. It was so decided.

112. The CHAIRMAN invited any delegations wishing to do so to explain their positions on the draft proposals in documents A/C.5/36/L.22, A/C.5/36/L.25 and A/C.5/36/L.26, which the Committee had adopted at the 63rd meeting.

113. Mr. SAGRERA (Spain) said that his delegation would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.22 if it had been put to the vote, since it agreed that documentation should be distributed simultaneously in all the official languages. He was sure that the material difficulty of producing translations for simultaneous distribution in the other languages would not be used as an excuse to delay the availability of documentation in the original language, which should continue to be distributed immediately.

114. Mrs. LISBOA (Venezuela) said the fact that the draft proposals had been adopted by consensus reflected the unanimity in the Committee on the questions involved. Her delegation attached such great importance to the matter of documentation, the effective rationalization of which was a question of political will on the part of all Member States, that it had suggested the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts to make an objective review of the question. She hoped that at least two aspects of the decisions adopted - the simultaneous distribution of documents in the different official languages, and equitable attention to the distribution of documents in Spanish - would be implemented by the following session. Her delegation was confident that the Committee on Conferences was doing its utmost.

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115. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq) said he hoped that the decision regarding simultaneous distribution of documents, including meeting records, in the different official languages would be implemented as soon as possible. His delegation had often been at a disadvantage because documents in Arabic were delayed.

116. Mr. ASP (Sweden) said that, although his delegation had had no difficulty in joining the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.22, he felt obliged to observe that its provisions were aimed at greater equity among the already privileged. He reminded the Committee that a majority of representatives never had the opportunity to use their mother tongue in United Nations proceedings and were constantly struggling with one or more foreign languages. He hoped that the decision adopted would not, by shortening the time available for reading and preparation, make matters even more difficult for those to whom all the official languages of the United Nations were foreign languages.

117. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 105.

AGENDA ITEM 101: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/36/38, A/36/171 and Add.1, A/36/181, A/36/182, A/36/479; A/C.5/36/1; A/C.5/36/L.21/Rev.1)

118. Mr. MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.21/Rev.1, said that Romania should be added to the list of sponsors. The sponsors could have produced a text simply endorsing the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Secretary-General, but instead they had opted for a rather long and detailed draft resolution incorporating and highlighting the various recommendations on programme planning and the elements on which general agreement had emerged in the course of the debate.

119. The preamble recalled the resolutions and decisions that had determined the approach to the three key concepts referred to in the last preambular paragraph, which together formed an interrelated cycle of planning, programming and budgeting or management. Budgeting would be the subject of separate consideration, but it had been thought advisable to include that element as well in the draft resolution.

120. Section I dealt with the over-all conclusions and recommendations on programme planning contained in the reports of CPC, JIU and the Secretary-General, which had been thoroughly discussed in the Committee. The sponsors had originally wanted to endorse all the conclusions and recommendations of CPC but, since the Committee had asked for a statement of the financial implications of some of them, they had, in order not to delay submission of the draft resolution, endorsed specifically in paragraph 2 only those relating to an order of priorities among programmes as contained in paragraphs 453 to 472 of the CPC report (A/36/38).

121. In section II, the sponsors had tried to codify the results achieved by CPC in reviewing the criteria to be applied in setting priorities. While it

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(Mr. Monthe, United Republic
of Cameroon)

might have been sufficient simply to recommend that the General Assembly should endorse the CPC recommendations, the sponsors had felt that it would be better to mention the recommendations specifically, relying for that purpose on paragraphs 453 to 472 of the report. It was hoped that the recommendations could serve as guidelines in the preparation of the next programme budget. The sponsors had in mind two basic levels of priority-setting. At the higher level, priority-setting involved indicating, as precisely as possible, the over-all trends arising from the Charter, the International Development Strategy and the resolutions on the new international economic order. At the second, subprogramme level, the General Assembly could decide, on the basis of reports from the competent intergovernmental bodies to accept or reject the priorities established in the introduction to the medium-term programme.

122. Section III was self-explanatory.

123. The subject-matter of the draft resolution was of great importance for programme planning and co-ordination, and he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

124. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that his delegation wished to become a sponsors of the draft resolution.

125. Mr. GEBRE-MEDHIN (Ethiopia) proposed that in section II of the draft resolution the words "regional plans which are integral parts of global strategies" should be inserted after "the International Development Strategy" in the first part of subparagraph (b). His delegation had in mind the fact that the General Assembly had endorsed the Lagos Plan of Action as part of the International Development Strategy, and it therefore felt that the draft resolution should refer to such regional plans.

126. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that, as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, his delegation found the amendment fully acceptable.

127. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) observed that regional plans were adopted by regional organizations in which not all States Members of the United Nations were represented or were able to present their views. His delegation would therefore find it difficult to accept the additional phrase proposed by the representative of Ethiopia.

128. Mr. GEBRE-MEDHIN (Ethiopia) said that, since the General Assembly had endorsed the regional plans as part of the global strategy, he did not see what objection there could be to his proposal. However, he would not insist on his amendment if the sponsors of the draft resolution also had objections.

129. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) wondered whether the reference in section I, paragraph 2 (b), to "a central unit within the Secretariat" might not cause

(Mr. Pirson, Belgium)

problems, and suggested that it might be better to refer to "the central Secretariat". The next sentence would then have to be amended to read: "This work should include ...". He also suggested that the words "in keeping with the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/36/181 and 182)" should be added at the end of paragraph 4, since similar wording was included in paragraph 3.

130. Mr. KABA (Guinea) said that his delegation supported both the tenor of the draft resolution and the amendment proposed by the representative of Ethiopia. Although the regional plans were already considered an integral part of the International Development Strategy, they were of sufficient interest to Member States to be referred to in the draft resolution.

131. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) suggested that the idea expressed by the representative of Belgium might be rendered in English by the words "should be undertaken centrally within the Secretariat".

132. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) pointed out that there were some errors in the numbers of the resolutions cited in the last paragraph of the draft resolution. Moreover, the list should also include resolution 35/209. To complete the cycle of activities, he suggested that the word "budgeting" should be inserted after the word "programming" in section III, paragraph 1.

133. Mr. MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) thanked the representative of Ethiopia for not insisting on his amendment, and appealed to the representative of Belgium not to press his amendment to section I, paragraph 2 (b), which had been the subject of very difficult and sensitive negotiations. He had no objection to the Belgian amendment to section I, paragraph 4, but did not consider it necessary to repeat the document symbols of the JIU reports, which were already cited in the preceding paragraph. Although the sponsors felt that the reference to management also covered budgeting, they would have no objection to the amendment proposed by the representative of Poland. The typographical errors and the omission in the last paragraph would be corrected.

134. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said he believed that calling for the establishment of a central unit within the Secretariat would pose problems for the Secretary-General, since it was not clear whether such a unit would report to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs or the Department of Administration, Finance and Management. The intention of his amendment was to give the Secretary-General some flexibility in assigning the task of monitoring the implementation of programme commitments, perhaps through the well-tried practice of establishing a task force. Obviously, his delegation envisaged that the "central Secretariat" would be in New York.

135. Mr. MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) observed that it was for the Secretary-General to propose where the central unit should be located. In doing so, he would no doubt take account of the outcome of the work of the

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(Mr. Monthe, United Republic
of Cameroon)

Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas.

136. The sponsors had revised section I, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to improve the evaluation services of the United Nations in accordance with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit".

137. Mr. GEBRE-MEDHIN (Ethiopia) confirmed that he would withdraw his amendment, but pointed out that it had been supported by the representatives of Guinea and Yugoslavia.

138. Mr. KABA (Guinea) said that, although his delegation continued to believe that a reference to the regional plans was important, it would not insist in view of the fact that the Ethiopian amendment had been withdrawn.

139. Draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.21/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

140. The CHAIRMAN announced that a draft decision on agenda item 101 had been submitted by the United States and would be before the Committee at its next meeting.

141. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that, although his delegation had been pleased to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/36/L.21/Rev.1 as orally revised, the position it had consistently adopted on the new international economic order remained unchanged.

142. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that the United States had joined in the consensus with reluctance and despite its serious reservations concerning language contained in the first subparagraph of section II (b). Only the Charter of the United Nations was an authoritative instrument within the meaning of the draft resolution. Neither the International Development Strategy nor the resolutions on the new international economic order could be so defined. His delegation's participation in the consensus did not in any respect represent a retreat from its well-known position regarding the Strategy and the various resolutions in question. Further, in the planning process, his delegation did not believe that priorities could effectively be established at a level higher than the subprogramme level. It had joined in the consensus because of its general agreement with the basic planning and evaluation objectives of the draft resolution.

143. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said his delegation believed that some paragraphs of the draft resolution could have been strengthened. However, it welcomed the consensus and hoped that the adoption of the draft resolution would be a further contribution to effective programme planning. As far as the resolutions on

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(Mr. Takasu, Japan)

the new international economic order were concerned, his delegation's position remained unchanged.

144. Mr. RUGWIZANGOGA (Rwanda) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus because it believed that the draft resolution provided for concrete measures which would meet the needs of Member States for a proper system of planning, budgeting and evaluation in the United Nations. It hoped that the adoption of such a resolution by the General Assembly would further enhance and strengthen that process.

145. Mr. MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said he appreciated that some delegations had had to overcome many difficulties in order to join the consensus on the draft resolution. If that spirit of co-operation continued to prevail, he was sure that the Committee would be able to complete its work by the scheduled date.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

146. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the allegations made by another delegation against his country in the course of the discussion at the 60th meeting on respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies was false.

147. Mr. RAKAU (German Democratic Republic) said that, while a country's denial of the activities of its secret service was understandable, his delegation emphatically protested against any attempt to question a judgement handed down by a regular court of the German Democratic Republic.

The meeting rose at 9.20 p.m.