



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 61st MEETING

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

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (chaps. II, III, V-VIII, XI-XXII, XXVI, XXVIII, XXIX, XXXVI and XXXVII)

The meeting was called to order at 8.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/35/L.37 and Add.1

1. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) said that draft resolutions A/C.5/35/L.37 and Add.1 represented a minimum basis for agreement, and were the results of efforts made at every level. He welcomed the agreement which had been reached on draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37, section I, paragraph 3, which questioned the allocation of posts on the basis of an anachronistic concept, that of "inherited" posts. That concept discredited a cardinal principle of the Charter of the United Nations relating to personnel questions: that of equitable geographical distribution. The need to increase the representation of developing countries in senior and policy-formulating posts should result in more than wishful thinking. A decision on the matter should be taken within the framework of existing resolutions.
2. With regard to section II, concerning desirable ranges, the concept of parity was quite contrary to his delegation's position. His delegation considered that parity between the membership factor and the contribution factor, far from representing a principle, was merely a transitional stage in the quest for greater justice, balance and equity in a situation inherited from the past. The measures indicated in section II were provisional and the lapse of six years anticipated before further review was too long. Further, the technical arguments put forward in support of postponing further consideration of the question of desirable ranges until the forty-first session lacked objectivity.
3. His country considered that the recruitment procedures for staff at the P-1 and P-2 levels were also provisional. He supported the annex to draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37 and endorsed the progressive implementation of recruitment by competitive examination until 1982. Nevertheless, he was concerned about the future impact of the principle of recruitment by examination since, if full account were not taken of the criteria of objectivity and fairness in the examinations and of balance between quality and the level of representation of Member States, the aims of the sponsors of that method, whose principle concern had been the full and objective implementation of the relevant resolutions, might not be achieved.
4. His delegation had no difficulty in accepting draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37, section IV, and section V, concerning the status of women. With respect to paragraph 2 of section V, he drew the attention of the members of the Committee and the Secretariat to the inadmissible practices used by certain specialized agencies in evaluating women candidates. It was necessary to ensure that such irresponsible practices, which revealed a doubly discriminatory and unacceptable attitude, did not discourage Member States, particularly developing countries, from putting forward a greater number of women candidates.

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(Mr. Bouzarbia, Algeria)

5. With respect to draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1, his delegation, which had joined the consensus, welcomed the spirit in which it had been accepted by the members of the Formal Working Group on Personnel Questions. With respect to the establishment of a committee of 17 governmental experts on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, account had been taken of the concerns and reservations expressed by the Group of African States over the current composition of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Nevertheless, with respect to paragraphs 1 and 3 of the draft resolution, he thought that the mandate of the committee of experts should have been defined more clearly in order to avoid its wasting time over procedural difficulties.

6. With respect to draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1, paragraph 4, his delegation trusted that concrete results would be achieved not only through the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions but also, and in particular, through the adoption of effective measures aimed at ending the present situation.

7. His delegation considered it necessary to specify the legal status of the committee and the duration of its mandate. Similarly, the qualifications required of the governmental experts should be determined, and information provided on participation at the Secretariat level and the approximate date on which the first meeting would be held.

8. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan), referring to draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37, welcomed the establishment of new guidelines for determining desirable ranges for the geographical distribution of Secretariat staff in the Professional category. The new system represented an important advance in the quest for equity and justice for all Member States. For the first time in its history the Organization had moved beyond the purely symbolic recognition of the concept that it was not the wealth of a country or its contribution to the budget of the United Nations which should determine its desirable range of representation in the Organization. In adopting section II of the draft, the General Assembly had reaffirmed its support for the principles contained in Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter, in that it had implicitly recognized that the efficiency, competence and integrity of staff were not corollaries of the size of a Member State's contribution.

9. During the negotiations which had preceded the adoption of the draft resolution, his delegation, despite its support for the aforementioned principles, had recognized the need to reach a compromise with those in a privileged position with regard to desirable ranges. Provided that, and when, sufficient consideration was given to the concerns of the Group of 77, his delegation was willing to take account of the interests of the main contributors. The compromise which had emerged was not entirely satisfactory to any group but was aimed at removing the main causes for concern.

10. His delegation believed that it was more important to reduce unfair privileges than to obtain immediate benefits. At all events, he was confident that when desirable ranges were next reviewed the Assembly would vote more categorically in favour of equality of opportunity, which was the fundamental principle set out in Article 101 (3) of the Charter.

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(Mr. Kemal, Pakistan)

11. If draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37 was adopted, the desirable ranges of the developing countries would be increased. The desirable ranges of the developed countries would also increase and, in absolute terms, the desirable ranges of the main contributors would increase more substantially. His delegation believed that that was correct, for there must be a reasonable balance between the contribution, membership and population factors.

12. With regard to the Organization's methods of recruitment, his delegation supported the guidelines contained in section I of the draft resolution, on the understanding that the recruitment of nationals from unrepresented and under-represented developing countries would not decrease the representation of countries which were within desirable ranges.

13. Section IV of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37 requested the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to study further the subject of career development. His delegation believed that the ICSC should have prime responsibility in that area. It also believed that the recommendations of the two bodies should be complementary rather than contradictory.

14. With regard to draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1 on the establishment of a committee of governmental experts to evaluate the present structure of the Secretariat in the administrative, finance and personnel areas, his delegation hoped that the 17 experts would be selected in such a way as to strengthen the Committee's confidence in the conclusions reached by the committee. The members of the committee should be independent experts who represented not only the interests of their respective countries but also those of the international community as a whole.

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

Job classification and career development of language staff (A/C.5/35/75;  
A/35/7/Add.27; A/C.5/35/L.45)

15. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal in document A/C.5/35/75 for reducing expenditures and improving management in the area of conference services, an important and costly sphere of United Nations activities.

16. His delegation was not sure that the post reclassification proposed by the Secretary-General in his report would save money in the long term, and it believed that the views of the Advisory Committee should be sought. The salaries of United Nations language staff were among the highest in the world and far exceeded those paid by the private sector and the civil service. His delegation agreed therefore with the Acting Chairman of the ICSC (A/C.5/35/WG.1/CRP.6) that a decision should be deferred until the ICSC had completed its work in that area.

17. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments) assured those delegations which had expressed concern on that score

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(Mr. Lewandowski)

that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/75) did not propose to totally abolish revision. The most important documents, which required revision, would continue to be revised but those which had been translated by more experienced translators would not be. That measure was doubly important, for it would not only greatly simplify the translation and preparation of documents but would also give a greater incentive to many members of the translation services. That human dimension of the problem, which was just as important as its financial dimension, should not be overlooked on any account. Members of the language services were treated differently from the staff of other departments in that they were required to have a university degree, were excluded from the principle of geographical distribution and had to pass a very rigorous examination in order to occupy posts which at present offered very limited career prospects.

18. The language services had a staff turnover of 12.3 per cent as compared with 7.8 per cent for the manning table as a whole. That was because, after remaining for several years in P-3 posts, members of the language services decided to resign in order to transfer to organizations with more reasonable recruitment policies or to work on the open market where the salary earned by an interpreter, for example, was equivalent to the salary of a D-1 official at the United Nations. Thus, in addition to the documentation improvements and the economies which could be made with the proposed system, account should also be taken of the need to improve the career prospects of language staff, reduce the high staff turnover and secure top quality candidates in future recruitment campaigns.

19. In his view, the proposal before the Committee in document A/C.5/35/75 had been amply considered by all the interested parties, and delegations had for a long time been able to follow the work which had culminated in the presentation of that document. If the decision was deferred for another year, the morale and motivation of the language staff might therefore deteriorate further and drastically undermine the effectiveness of the Organization's work.

20. He wished to confirm that the representative of the United Kingdom had correctly interpreted his own earlier statements.

21. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division), replying to the representative of the Soviet Union, who had expressed concern at the possible financial implications for the 1982-1983 budget of the final sentence of paragraph 12 of document A/C.5/35/75, stated that the document in question was not accompanied by a statement of financial implications because the proposed reclassification and abolition of posts had been deliberately conceived as a neutral measure from the point of view of financial implications. The Secretary-General had wanted to prevent the financial aspect from entering into the debate on that issue and affecting the Committee's decision. If the Committee adopted the Secretary-General's proposals, that decision would be taken into account in order to reflect the approved reclassification and abolition of posts in the manning table of the Department of Conference Services. That was all he could say, however, regarding the budget for 1982-1983, under which no additional appropriations would be sought for the implementation of those proposals.

22. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) recalled that the representative of the Soviet Union had said that the proposed reclassification was perhaps intended to benefit a specific service. He was surprised at that interpretation, for what was involved was the reclassification of posts, not individuals. If a human dimension was to be added to the question, however, he believed that it was also fair to recognize the work and experience of staff members who had served the United Nations for many years. His delegation endorsed fully the interpretation given by Mr. Begin regarding the financial implications of the Secretary-General's proposals. The Fifth Committee must take a decision solely on the basis of the Secretary-General's report; nothing could be foreseen or promised with regard to the future.

23. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) recalled that no answer had been given to the question raised by the delegation of the Soviet Union as to how the reclassification would be applied in specific language services. Some of the comments made by the delegation of Syria raised questions in that connexion.

24. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments) said that, while he appreciated that delegations wished to safeguard the interests of their respective languages, he wished to reiterate that the reclassification would be effected in a strictly egalitarian manner for all the official languages of the United Nations without distinction.

Draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45

25. Mr. FARMER (Australia) suggested that the words "the new languages" in the final preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45 should be replaced by the words "the more recently introduced official languages" in order to reflect more accurately the idea which that paragraph sought to express.

26. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) accepted the suggestion of the representative of Australia because it improved the text.

27. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that his delegation would vote in favour of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45 and of the resolution as a whole, because it would benefit the language service staff.

28. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45 and operative paragraph 1 thereof because it constituted an equitable improvement for all the language services and all the categories of staff working in them. His delegation also supported operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, because of the assurances given by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments that the system of self-revision would serve both to improve the quality of documentation and to raise the morale of the language service staff.

29. Mr. JASABE (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation had often expressed its concern about the high rate of movement of the language service staff and their lack of motivation; consequently, he would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45, because it was an appropriate means of remedying those problems.

30. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that, if draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45 was not adopted, the paradoxical situation might arise where, in an organization which wanted to be fair to all, there were no equitable career prospects for those very staff who made communication among delegations possible.

31. With regard to the supposed incompatibility in the method of classification proposed by the Secretary-General and ICSC, his delegation believed that that problem could be resolved through consultation, as suggested by the Advisory Committee in its report.

32. Accordingly, the United Republic of Cameroon supported the draft resolution.

33. Mr. BAMBA (Upper Volta) and Mrs. MUCK (Austria) supported draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45.

34. The CHAIRMAN announced that, at the request of the delegation of the Soviet Union, a separate vote would be taken on paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45.

35. Paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45 was adopted by 86 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.

36. Draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.45 as a whole was adopted by 87 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.

37. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of paragraph 1 and of the draft resolution as a whole on the understanding that, as confirmed by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments, they would not require the General Assembly to make additional appropriations during the current biennium or the next.

Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations (A/C.5/35/L.53)

38. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.53 and said that its main purpose was to set forth a number of undeniable facts that the Fifth Committee could probably accept without objections. Essentially, it requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the elimination of deficiencies in the implementation of the principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations and expressed the hope that the General Assembly could evaluate at that session the existing practices in that area. It also took note of the statement made by the Director of the Budget Division in the Fifth Committee to the effect that at the current session it had not been possible to submit a report on the subject. Paragraph 2 reflected the dissatisfaction which had been expressed in the consultations held in that regard.

39. A small change should be made in paragraph 4: instead of "the information presented" it should read "the information to be presented".



40. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) proposed that in paragraph 2 the words "reiterates its request" should be replaced by the words "again requests".

41. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) accepted that proposal.

42. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that Portugal and Trinidad and Tobago wished to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.53. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee approved the draft resolution as orally revised.

43. It was so decided.

Common services at the United Nations Centre in Nairobi (A/C.5/35/114)

44. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on common services at the United Nations Centre, Nairobi (A/C.5/35/114).

45. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that his delegation trusted that a more extensive report would be submitted on that question. Of the three options indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/114, para. 4) for the provision of common services in locations containing separate units of the United Nations system, Canada considered that the best was the third, namely, to establish a special unit separate from the local organization which would be responsible to provide services to them as users.

46. His delegation recognized that, when the construction of the premises had been postponed, there had been valid reasons for postponing also the decision on the subject under consideration; nevertheless, now that a decision on the Nairobi premises had been adopted, the Secretariat should take the necessary steps for the adoption of a decision at the thirty-sixth session.

47. Mr. JASABE (Sierra Leone) said that a decision on the different options should be taken only when the financial implications were known. Accordingly, his delegation supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

48. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

49. It was so decided.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolutions in documents A/35/L.13, L.14, L.15, L.16, L.17, L.18, L.19, L.21, L.22, L.23, L.25, L.26, L.27 and L.28 concerning agenda item 28 (A/C.5/35/117)

50. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in his statement of administrative and financial

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(Mr. Mselle)

implications of the draft resolutions concerning agenda item 28 (A/C.5/35/117), the Secretary-General had requested the establishment of one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3 post. The description of the work to be performed by the incumbents of those posts was contained in the annex to that document. In addition, he had requested a General Service post, the functions of which were not described in the annex.

51. The Advisory Committee believed that the Centre against Apartheid already had staff resources, which would not fully justify the establishment of all the posts requested. However, the Advisory Committee had decided that, instead of reducing the number of posts requested, it should recommend approval by the Fifth Committee of their establishment on a temporary basis, until ACABQ could consider their establishment on a permanent basis in the context of the Secretary-General's proposals for the biennium 1982-1983.

52. The Advisory Committee was also recommending that the resources requested under section 28D, totalling \$22,700, should be absorbed within existing appropriations under that section of the budget.

53. Conference-servicing costs amounting to \$584,500 would be included in the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements which would shortly be before the Committee.

54. He pointed out that there were a few errors in the Secretary-General's calculation, as could be seen in paragraph 36 of the statement (A/C.5/35/117) where the total estimated expenditures resulting from the draft resolutions were summarized. The total appropriation requested in the column headed section 3A should read \$224,100 not \$422,100, and in the column headed section 3D, the figure for the appropriation requested should read \$290,800 not \$92,800.

55. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolutions, an additional appropriation of \$514,900 would be required under sections 3A (\$224,100) and 3D (\$290,800). In addition, an amount of \$19,600 would be required for staff assessment under section 31, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1.

56. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the recommendations of ACABQ, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, if the draft resolutions contained in documents A/35/L.13 to L.19, L.21 to L.23 and L.25 to L.28 were adopted, it would be necessary to make additional appropriations in the amount of \$514,900 in the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, broken down as follows: \$224,100 under section 3A and \$290,800 under section 3D. It would also be necessary to make an appropriation of \$19,600 under section 31 (Staff assessment), which would be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). The related conference-servicing costs would be taken into account in the consolidated statement of the cost of those services which the Fifth Committee would consider later. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to approve the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

57. It was so decided.

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58. Mr. FRASER (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation had joined in the consensus in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, it had reservations with regard to substantive matters dealt with in some of the draft resolutions. If the financial implications of those draft resolutions had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against them.

59. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations because it considered abhorrent both the apartheid régime and the systematic violation of human rights entailed in the practice of apartheid. However, his delegation's unswerving support, for measures to combat apartheid did not prevent it from being concerned over the continued proliferation of resolutions on that question and the related expenditure. The resolutions adopted were all too often nothing more than ritual denunciations of the apartheid régime and rehearsals of previous resolutions at the expense of effective measures.

60. Accordingly, his delegation urged the General Assembly to focus its attention, within the sphere of its competence, on measures contributing tangibly and constructively to the struggle against apartheid.

61. Mr. JASABE (Sierra Leone) said that since his country was currently serving as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the question of apartheid was of special interest to his delegation. Sierra Leone had already outlined its viewpoint in the debate in the Third Committee, but wished to stress that any measure which helped to perpetuate the policy of apartheid was a breach of the Declaration of Human Rights, which all Member States had signed.

62. In that connexion, his delegation agreed with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, although they were perhaps not entirely satisfactory.

63. The many resolutions on apartheid which had been adopted made it increasingly clear that the apartheid régime represented a crime against human dignity, and consequently every effort must be made to eliminate it. At the same time, his delegation urged the international community, instead of adopting new resolutions, to mobilize itself and take effective steps to eliminate apartheid and to impress upon those responsible for that practice the universal rejection of the crimes against humanity which they were committing.

64. Mr. FARMER (Australia) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the various draft resolutions the financial implications of which were before the Fifth Committee. Accordingly, if the financial implications had been put to a vote, it would have also abstained.

65. Mr. PAPPENDORP (United States of America) said that his delegation would state in plenary meeting its position on the draft resolutions the financial implications of which the Committee had just considered. His delegation would have to vote against several of the draft resolutions and, if a separate vote had been taken on the financial implications, it would have also voted against them.

66. Mrs. SANDIFER (Portugal) said that, if the financial implications of the draft resolutions under consideration had been put to a vote, her delegation would have abstained, given its position on the substance of a number of them and also because it considered the financial implications to be excessive.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in document A/SPC/35/L.26 concerning agenda item 59 (A/35/7/Add.29; A/C.5/35/111)

67. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that in its report (A/35/7/Add.29) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in document A/SPC/35/L.26, the Advisory Committee was recommending to the Fifth Committee the acceptance of virtually all the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/35/111). However, there had been a difference of opinion between the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat with respect to the appropriateness of requesting resources for the acquisition of public information equipment during the current biennium. He recalled that a five-year programme 1980-1985 for the acquisition and replacement of public information equipment had been included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, proposals for the acquisition of the necessary equipment for the implementation of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26 should be submitted in the context of that programme in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

68. Consequently, in paragraph 19 of its report, ACABQ was recommending against any additional expenditure on purchase of equipment at the present time, thereby reducing the Secretary-General's estimate by \$199,400. In addition, the Advisory Committee was of the opinion that \$61,000 of the additional requirement of \$111,000 for common services requested under section 28D (Office of General Services, Headquarters) should be absorbed within existing resources.

69. In short, the Advisory Committee was recommending that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution in document A/SPC/35/L.26, additional appropriations would be required in the amounts of \$669,800 under section 27 and \$50,000 under section 28D of the programme budget for 1980-1981. An amount of \$77,000 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

70. Mr. ASK (Sweden) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26 because it believed that the United Nations and the specialized agencies could help to strengthen the communication infrastructure of developing countries and because it fully supported the establishment of the two new information centres in Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

71. With regard to the financial implications under consideration, his delegation understood that a major part of the planned activities would be financed from existing resources or resources released through the more effective utilization of available funds. It was therefore surprised that additional resources in an amount of nearly \$1 million were being requested, despite the Advisory Committee's

(Mr. Ask, Sweden)

recommendation that the amounts requested by the Secretary-General should be reduced by approximately \$200,000.

72. His delegation would have been in favour of any proposal to reduce the Secretary-General's estimates even further; however, it could go along with the recommendation of ACABQ.

73. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that the Secretary-General was requested in paragraph 10 (a) of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26 to take the measures necessary to strengthen and improve the regional structure in the Radio Service of the Department of Public Information, paying particular attention to adequate programming in the various languages of the regions. In paragraph 23 of his statement (A/C.5/35/111), the Secretary-General indicated that resolution 34/182 called for a review of the Radio Service. He requested information on the status of that review.

74. The Secretary-General was proposing the establishment of two P-3 posts to strengthen programming in Chinese and Portuguese. In view of the need to improve the African Unit, which remained unsatisfactory, his delegation wished to know why no additional posts were being established to increase Radio Service's broadcasting capability in African languages.

75. Measures should be sought to improve the situation and his delegation wished to express its concern over the matter.

76. Mr. ROBERT (Belgium) said that in paragraph 19 of its report (A/35/7/Add.29) the Advisory Committee indicated that the requirements for Geneva should be reflected in the programme for the acquisition and replacement of equipment which would be included in the Secretary-General's programme budget proposals for 1982-1983 and recommended that, for the time being no additional expenditure should be incurred. His delegation stressed the importance of the Geneva Information Service and believed that it should be provided with all the equipment it needed to carry out its activities. It was to be hoped that funds would be earmarked under the programme budget for 1982-1983 to strengthen that service, which benefited all members of the United Nations.

77. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MENDOZA (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, pointed out that the position of the developing countries with regard to the annual training programmes for radio broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, as envisaged in paragraph 9 of section III of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26, was not adequately reflected in paragraph 20 of document A/C.5/35/111 and in paragraph 14 of document A/35/7/Add.29. The Group of 77 was of the view that the annual programmes should not be limited to only 12 radio broadcasters and four journalists, but rather that those should be minimum figures. At least that was the understanding reached in the consultations carried out prior to the adoption of the draft resolution, as a result of which the duration of the training programme had been reduced from six to three months, so that the number of individuals who could benefit from the programmes could be increased.

78. Mr. AKASHI (Under-Secretary-General for Public Information) said that the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26 was an indication of the

(Mr. Akashi)

growing importance of information activities, which were one of the most important means to mobilize world public opinion in favour of the United Nations.

79. Referring to the statement by the representative of Sweden concerning the amount of additional resources required as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution, he noted that the Department of Public Information would continue in its efforts to economize and redistribute resources. After carefully examining the situation of the Department, however, he had arrived at the conclusion that the additional resources were necessary. Some time ago the Department, in order to reduce expenses, had identified inefficient or marginally useful activities (reduction in the number of information centres, selection of areas in which public information activities would be carried out and reduction in the short-wave radio programme). Nevertheless, the Member States had expressed the desire not only to continue but also to widen such activities, thus eliminating the possibility for the Department to save money.

80. The Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the Administrative Management Service, was about to conclude its study of the regional structure of the Radio Service. Results of the joint study would be presented to the Committee on Information at its next session and to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. Meanwhile, it was important to strengthen programming in Portuguese, since there was no information officer in that sector, and in Chinese, in which there was only one information officer, an obviously insufficient number, considering that China was the most highly populated country in the world. Of course, that did not mean that other matters, such as the expansion of the African Unit or the establishment of a separate Caribbean Unit should be neglected. In the Department's report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the concerns of Member States on that subject would be reflected.

81. With regard to the observations made by the representative of Belgium, the importance of the Information Centre in Geneva and, in particular, of the need to acquire and to replace equipment would be fully taken into account in the 1980-1981 budget appropriations. If those funds were insufficient, that fact would be taken into account in the 1982-1983 budget.

82. He wished to reassure the delegation of Venezuela and the Group of 77 that the Department of Public Information was giving high priority to the training of journalists in developing countries while seeking to expand programmes in that area. The figure of 16 journalists mentioned in document A/35/7/Add.29 was actually the minimum number of journalists who were to participate in training programmes. Since the duration of programmes had been reduced from six to three months, a greater number of journalists could probably be trained and that would be done as far as possible.

83. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that the replies of the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information were largely satisfactory. He noted that at the next session the report on the regional structure and Radio Service, as well as the proposals for the expansion of the African Unit, would be available. Accordingly, he would not suggest interrupting the relevant activities of the Department.

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84. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of ACABQ recommendations, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, if draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26 were adopted, it would be necessary to appropriate an additional amount of \$669,800 under section 27 and \$50,000 under section 28D of the programme budget for the 1980-1981 biennium. An additional amount of \$77,000 under section 31 (Staff assessment) would be necessary, which would be offset by a corresponding increase under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

85. It was so decided.

86. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco), explaining his delegation's position on the decision that had just been made, said that it supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee because it felt that the Department of Public Information had done an excellent job. He congratulated the Under-Secretary-General for his achievements and pledged his delegation's full co-operation in future activities.

87. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if a vote had been taken on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in document A/35/7/Add.29, the Soviet delegation would not have been able to support them, since it was opposed in principle to the approval of additional appropriations.

88. Mr. PAPIENDORP (United States of America) said that his delegation, in joining in the consensus with which draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.26 had been adopted, had reaffirmed its concern over the increasing costs resulting from the draft resolution and expressed reservations regarding the financial implications of the final text. If the recommendations of the Advisory Committee had been put to a vote, his delegation could not have supported them. It was particularly unfortunate that the efforts of the Department of Public Information to offset possible increases by eliminating marginal or inefficient projects had not been supported by Member States.

89. Mr. FRASER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation, in joining in the consensus of the Special Political Committee, had pointed out the size of the expenditures resulting from the approval of the draft resolution. His delegation did not support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee because they would be an additional burden on the 1980-1981 budget. His delegation would have preferred that the expenditures had been offset with savings in other activities and would therefore take them into account in deciding its position on the supplementary budget as a whole.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Fifth Committee in document A/C.5/35/L.37 concerning agenda item 98 (A/C.5/35/115)

90. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/35/L.37) and the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/35/115, in which he had indicated that the draft resolution would give rise to expenditure in connexion with the additional posts that would be required; he was also requesting resources to cover the costs of consultants, external printing, travel, and rental and installation of equipment. The Advisory Committee had agreed to all the Secretary-General's requests, and was recommending their approval. However, it had taken note of the

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fact that the salary and common staff costs related to the posts requested by the Secretary-General did not include the usual delayed-recruitment deduction factor. The Advisory Committee was therefore recommending certain reductions in the amounts shown in paragraph 18 of document A/C.5/35/115. The deductions, of a purely technical nature, based on that factor were the following: the amount of \$346,700 under section 28C (Office of Personnel Services) should be reduced to \$267,600; the amount of \$83,500 under section 28D (Office of General Services) should be reduced to \$45,800; the amount of \$141,200 under section 28J (Staff training activities) and the sum of \$15,400 under section 28G (Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division) would remain unchanged.

91. The over-all total of \$586,800 should therefore be reduced to \$470,000. The amount of \$67,000 relating to section 31 (Staff assessment) should be reduced to \$60,000.

92. On that basis, the Fifth Committee might wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37, additional appropriations would be required in the amount of \$470,000 under section 28 of the programme budget.

93. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37, additional appropriations of \$470,000 would be required in the programme budget for 1980-1981, broken down as follows: \$267,600 under section 28C, \$45,800 under section 28D, \$15,400 under section 28G and \$141,200 under section 28J. Moreover, an additional appropriation of \$60,000 under section 31 (Staff assessment) would be necessary, which would be offset by a corresponding increase under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). If there were no objections, the Chairman would take it that the Committee had accepted his suggestion.

94. It was so decided.

95. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was firmly convinced that the resolution contained in document A/C.5/35/L.37 could have been implemented without the need to appropriate an additional \$470,000, since, in its opinion, the Secretariat had enough staff members for that purpose.

96. Moreover, it was well known that the Soviet Union maintained, in principle, a position of opposing additional appropriations during the budget period. Therefore, if the proposal had been submitted to a vote, his delegation would have abstained.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Fifth Committee in document A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1 concerning agenda item 98 (A/C.5/35/116)

97. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, should the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1 be adopted, a committee of governmental experts would be established to evaluate the present structure of the Secretariat in the administrative, finance and personnel areas. At its 56th meeting the



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Fifth Committee had decided that provision should be made for the cost of travel and daily subsistence for those members of the committee not residing in New York. That would give rise to an additional requirement in the amount of \$25,000 under section 28A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. The Advisory Committee was recommending that the Fifth Committee should approve that request.

98. In addition, the Secretary-General had indicated in his report (A/C.5/35/116) that there would be conference-servicing costs in an amount not exceeding \$186,400, which would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements.

99. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that he hoped that the arrangements for the meetings would be such that conference servicing could be provided as far as possible with available resources.

100. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1, an additional appropriation of \$25,000 would be necessary under section 28A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. Conference servicing costs would be taken into account in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be considered at a later stage. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt his suggestion.

101. It was so decided.

102. Mr. BROCHARD (France) said that his delegation had already expressed its reservations with regard to the establishment of a committee of experts to review the existing administrative structure of the Secretariat. Accordingly, if the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.37/Add.1 had been put to a vote, his delegation would not have been able to vote in favour.

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendation contained in document A/C.5/35/L.38 concerning agenda item 96 (A/C.5/35/118).

103. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending that the Fifth Committee should approve an appropriation of \$18,300 under section 2A and that the \$7,200 requested under section 9 should be absorbed within the existing appropriations under that section of the budget.

104. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that, at the last meeting of the Committee on Conferences, his delegation had expressed its reservations with regard to the holding of the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct in Geneva instead of New York. Those reservations, which had been based on budgetary considerations, had stemmed from a misunderstanding of the figures that had been presented. The misunderstanding had been cleared up and his

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delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the report of ACABQ and its support for the holding of the meetings in question in Geneva.

105. Mr. ASK (Sweden) said that his delegation did not agree with the recommendation of the Committee on Conferences that the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Intergovernmental Working Group should be held in Geneva instead of in New York.

106. Past experience highlighted the great importance of holding the session of the Legal Sub-Committee in New York from 6 to 17 April 1981, as scheduled. He hoped that the Secretariat would make further efforts to find a more satisfactory solution to the matter. With regard to requirements for meeting rooms, he suggested that consultations should be carried out with the members of the two bodies concerned with a view to finding a solution by making revisions in the calendar of meetings.

107. Mr. FRASER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully agreed with the comments made by the representative of Sweden.

108. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MENDOZA (Venezuela) said that he shared the concern expressed by the delegations of Sweden and the United Kingdom. The holding of the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct in Geneva rather than in New York would doubtless create difficulties for the developing countries. The Intergovernmental Working Group was on the verge of completing its work and it was essential to ensure the participation of the developing countries at its meetings.

109. He hoped that a solution would be found so that the meetings of the Working Group could be held in New York, as planned. As the Working Group had only 48 members, it should be possible to accommodate it in a small meeting room at Headquarters. He also suggested that consideration might be given to the possibility of changing the dates of the session by postponing its start by one week.

110. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) endorsed the comments made by the delegations of Sweden, the United Kingdom, and, in particular, Venezuela.

111. Mr. SANCHEZ JUAREZ (Mexico) endorsed the views put forward by the previous speakers. His delegation was of the view that the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences should make greater efforts to ensure that the meetings in question could be held in New York.

112. Mr. AVOKOYA (Nigeria) said that the meeting in Geneva of the Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct would pose problems for developing countries since most of the participants were permanent representatives or members of missions accredited to the United Nations in New York. His delegation would have preferred the session to be held in New York, as planned.

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113. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had previously stated its opposition to the holding of the meetings referred to in document A/C.5/35/118 in Geneva instead of New York. The decision of the Committee on Conferences had been taken without consulting the Legal Sub-Committee and hence it was doubtful whether the Secretary-General's recommendation could be put into practice. He suggested therefore that the scheduling of the Legal Sub-Committee's session should be referred once again to the Committee on Conferences where it could be reviewed and a new decision taken in consultation with that body.

114. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) observed that, owing to the scheduling of the tenth session of the Conference on the Law of the Sea for New York, a sufficient number of conference rooms would not be available at Headquarters. It was obvious therefore that some of the meetings scheduled for that period would have to be held elsewhere.

115. His delegation did not intend to make recommendations at the current stage since the informal proposals it had made with regard to the optimum use of available space at Headquarters had been deemed impracticable by the Secretariat. It believed, however, that if the Fifth Committee referred the question of the meetings of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Intergovernmental Working Group back to the Committee on Conferences, it would merely confront the Committee on Conferences with the dilemma it was already facing, but from another angle. The sensible thing would be to ask those who had criticized the proposed arrangement to suggest other solutions.

116. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, recalled that the General Assembly had decided that the Conference on the Law of the Sea should hold its tenth session in New York. In view of the limited space available at Headquarters, the Committee on Conferences had been requested to study the consequences of that decision and determine whether other meetings scheduled for the same dates might be held elsewhere. On that basis, and after having been informed that the necessary space and services were available in Geneva, the Committee had decided to recommend that the sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee and the Intergovernmental Working Group should be held in Geneva instead of in New York. Moreover, the suggestion that the dates of the sessions of those two bodies should be changed would not solve anything, particularly in view of the heavy calendar of meetings. The change would probably create new problems with respect to other already scheduled meetings.

117. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MENDOZA (Venezuela) suggested that, since the Soviet delegation was not opposed to holding the session of the Legal Sub-Committee in Geneva, it might agree to limit its proposal to referring to the Committee on Conferences the question of the venue of the session of the Intergovernmental Working Group, which had given rise to most reservations.

118. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized that the Committee on Conferences had taken a decision without having consulted the Legal Sub-Committee, the body concerned, which was contrary to the usual practice in the United Nations. If the Fifth Committee decided to refer to the Committee on

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Conferences the scheduling of the Intergovernmental Working Group's session, it would also have to refer back to it the question of the Legal Sub-Committee's session so that it could consult with that body. It was not a question of a body telling the Committee on Conferences what decision to take, but the Committee should seek the views of the parties concerned. If on that basis the Committee on Conferences should decide that the sessions should be held in Geneva, his delegation would not oppose its decision.

119. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to refer back to the Committee on Conferences the question of the venue and dates of the meetings of the two bodies.

120. It was so decided.

Revised estimates: Section 5B. Centre for Science and Technology for Development (A/35/7/Add.32; A/C.5/35/83; A/C.5/35/91)

121. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the report of ACABQ on the revised estimates for the Centre for Science and Technology for Development (A/35/7/Add.32).

122. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MENDOZA (Venezuela) referred to the objections made by ACABQ in its report (A/35/7/Add.32) concerning the proposals made by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/35/83 with a view to having the Centre for Science and Technology for Development enter into full operation as soon as possible.

123. In accordance with the decision adopted by the Vienna Conference in August 1979 and the mandate given him by the General Assembly in December of the same year, the Secretary-General had taken the appropriate steps to ensure the Centre's definitive establishment. Accordingly, he had informed the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development of his intention to establish permanently the seven Professional posts created on a provisional basis by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. However, the Advisory Committee considered that it would be premature to incorporate those posts in the manning table. In his delegation's view, the Advisory Committee's suggestion would paralyze the establishment of the Centre, since it would be very difficult for it to hire properly qualified staff if it offered only short-term contracts. The magnitude and importance of the tasks entrusted to the Centre by the Intergovernmental Committee and the General Assembly and, in particular, the preparation of an operational plan on a world-wide scale for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action made it necessary for the Centre to have the necessary staff to carry them out. He believed that the Fifth Committee would only be serving the interests of States in approving the Secretary-General's proposal to include the extra posts in the manning table.

124. The Advisory Committee also objected in paragraph 9 of its report to the level of expenditures proposed by the Secretary-General for consultants, travel of representatives, ad hoc expert groups and travel of staff. His delegation believed that the Centre should be able to have sufficient resources to hold the

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international meetings approved and fulfil the function of co-ordinating and harmonizing the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology. He therefore proposed to the Committee that the appropriations proposed by the Secretary-General should be maintained. He proposed also that the Committee should reiterate to the Secretary-General its earlier recommendations on savings on travel expenses in order that they might be taken into account during the implementation of the Centre's programme for 1981.

125. In making those proposals, he believed that he was interpreting appropriately the letter and the spirit of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.113 concerning the Centre which had been submitted by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and adopted by the Second Committee by consensus.

126. Mr. FRASER (United Kingdom) recalled that in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution adopted by consensus by the Second Committee, it had been decided that the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development should be allocated the necessary resources to permit it to carry out its work programme. In paragraph 5 it had been decided that in 1981 the Intergovernmental Committee should, if necessary, hold its session in two parts, the first part in May and the second in September; the second part should not last longer than a week and should be devoted mainly to consideration of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, if it was ready. That resolution had been adopted in plenary session as a part of resolution 35/67, regarding which a statement of financial implications had not been submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. It might therefore be presumed that it had no financial implications. However, in paragraph 5 B.14 of document A/C.5/35/83, there was a reference to the need to make appropriations in the amount of \$26,600 and \$546,300 for travel in connexion with the holding of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee in two parts. According to the information available to the United Kingdom, those estimates of expenditures could have been reached only on the basis of the provisions of the draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee, since, before resolution 35/67 had been adopted in plenary session, the details of the proposed session had not been decided upon with the Intergovernmental Committee and it had not been known at that time that the session would in fact be held in two parts. Consequently, he asked whether a statement of the probable financial and administrative implications had been submitted to the Second Committee and, if so, the reasons why the matter had not been brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

127. Mr. CHANDLER (Barbados) stressed the great importance which Barbados, as a developing country, accorded to science and technology for development and to the indispensable work done by the Centre in that regard. The same arguments which had been put forward in favour of the reclassification of language-service posts could be cited in the present case, especially since the Centre also needed to have first-rate staff. His delegation therefore supported the proposal of the delegation of Venezuela.

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(Mr. Chandler, Barbados)

128. He was very interested in hearing the reply by the Secretariat to the question put by the United Kingdom and reserved the right to speak again when that reply had been given.

129. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) joined the delegations which had expressed their support for the Venezuelan proposal.

130. Mr. BEGIN (Director of the Budget Division), replying to the question put by the representative of the United Kingdom, explained that the financial implications of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee had been presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in connexion with resolution 34/218, in document A/C.5/34/101, in which the Secretary-General had indicated that those meetings would have financial implications for conference services and travel expenses.

131. At the thirty-fifth session, when the Second Committee had considered the draft resolution subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 35/67 A, the Secretariat had understood that, as a result of the consultations held in the Second Committee, a consensus had been reached that the costs of the meetings would be reflected in document A/C.5/35/83 and that it would therefore not be necessary to submit a separate statement of financial implications.

132. Mr. FRASER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was not satisfied with the explanations given by the Secretariat and he wished to put on record his delegation's serious concern at the failure to observe the customary procedure, which he considered totally unacceptable.

133. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that at the last session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, special priority had been given to science and technology in the activities of the United Nations, in view of the urgency of the needs of the developing countries in that area. In the Vienna Programme of Action the possibility was affirmed of making progress through international co-operation, and he therefore considered that the Secretary-General's proposals contained in document A/C.5/35/83 should be approved and endorsed, since they constituted a compromise. He was fully in agreement with the statements of the representative of Venezuela and said that if necessary, the question should be put to the vote.

134. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) recalled that the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/35/L.113 had already been considered and approved in 1979. A decision of a provisional and exceptional character had been taken to postpone the hiring of permanent staff. Meanwhile, permanent staff had been transferred from ACAST to the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, and at the beginning of 1980 contributions had been announced for putting the Centre into operation. A realistic work programme had also been prepared, taking into account the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General, which would be applied when the necessary resources were allocated.

(Mr. Bouzarbia, Algeria)

135. It was not necessary to stress the urgency and importance of that question for the developing countries. The continuation of the provisional character of the Centre's Professional posts would deprive it of substance and would only maintain an imbalance which ran counter to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Offering short-term contracts would make it difficult to find properly qualified staff and would delay the urgent tasks before the Centre. Since the Fifth Committee had taken important decisions on reclassification of posts, it seemed improper to hold up the hiring of staff because of supposed reclassification requirements or because of delays in the transmission of documents to ACABQ. It was necessary to take political decisions which, moreover, had already been adopted in the Second Committee in 1979, and they should not be postponed for technical reasons. A drastic reduction of the appropriations requested would compromise the work of the Centre and impede even further the development of the developing countries.

136. He fully agreed with the statement of the representative of Venezuela and expressed the wish that the Fifth Committee should adopt a realistic and objective attitude and approve the Secretary-General's recommendation, so that the Vienna Programme of Action could be put into effect and produce results.

137. Mr. CULLEN (Argentina) supported the proposal of Venezuela and the statements of the representatives of Algeria and Yugoslavia. In adopting resolution 34/218, the General Assembly had placed full confidence in the Centre for Science and Technology for Development. It was therefore a matter of concern to his delegation that for lack of necessary funds the Centre could not adequately carry out its work. He therefore found it necessary to take exception to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/35/7/Add.32), because they militated against the interests of the developing countries.

138. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the Centre had too many upper-echelon staff: of the 17 posts for the Professional category and above, 10 were at the management-class level. He therefore supported the recommendation by the Advisory Committee not to reclassify one of the posts from P-5 to D-1. He further believed the reduction of expenditures proposed by the Advisory Committee to be fully justified and in fact would have preferred a still greater reduction.

139. Mr. FARMER (Australia) said that his delegation did not view the Advisory Committee as a body whose recommendations had to be blindly followed; as a result, Australia had on several occasions found it necessary to take issue with them. With regard to the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, however, he saw no reason to disregard the recommendations in paragraphs 8 and 9 of document A/35/7/Add.32. In his judgement, those recommendations in no way endangered the effective functioning of the Centre.

140. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held in Vienna, had decided that the Centre should be in full operation before the thirty-sixth General Assembly session. The Centre was very important for the developing

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(Mr. Williams, Panama)

countries because its technical and scientific assistance would enable them to make needed advances. The Centre should therefore engage a suitable staff, capable of giving such assistance. The available documentation showed that the Centre had had great difficulty in engaging highly qualified scientists. One of the obstacles had been precisely the fact that the posts being offered were not established posts. It was therefore absolutely indispensable to convert the temporary-assistance posts of the Centre into permanent posts.

141. As for the reclassification of one of the posts from P-5 to D-1, his delegation firmly supported the proposal contained in document A/C.5/35/83. For the developing countries, the Centre represented a further step towards achieving independence and technological development. Thus, the reaction of certain delegations made one wonder if what they sought was to improve the situation of the developing world or to make it impossible for developing countries to take their rightful place in the international community.

142. Mr. HOUNGAVOU (Benin) stressed the importance of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development in international co-operation for the transfer of science and technology. Since the Secretary-General's proposals had been made on the basis of consultations held at various levels, his delegation could only express its dismay at the opposition by certain delegations. He hoped that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would not be adopted, since they would hinder the work of the Centre.

143. Mr. TOBON (Colombia) said he concurred with those who had stressed the exceptional importance of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, and supported the proposal of Venezuela to adopt the proposals of the Secretary-General in their entirety.

144. Mr. PAL (India) said that the opposition by the Advisory Committee to the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning the Centre for Science and Technology for Development appeared to stem from technical considerations. However, a perusal of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/35/7/Add.32) made it clear that what had actually happened was that the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services had not completed the task of classification assigned to it in that regard. That was all the more surprising in that the Classification Section had had one year to do so. The Centre should not find itself at a disadvantage because of the slow pace at which the Office of Personnel Services had done its work.

145. Mr. AMORIN (Uruguay) agreed with the delegations supporting the proposal of Venezuela not to adopt the recommendations in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/35/7/Add.32) and to adopt the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/35/83 with regard to the Centre for Science and Technology for Development. The Committee should reject the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, notwithstanding the unfortunate precedent that would be set, because, if it were denied a manning table of permanent staff, the Centre would have serious problems engaging suitably qualified personnel to carry out its important work.

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146. The CHAIRMAN recalled that Venezuela had proposed additional appropriations in the amount of \$821,900, broken down as follows: in section 4, a reduction of \$169,200; in section 5B, an increase of \$2,212,700; in section 6, a reduction of \$1,284,900; and in section 28, an increase of \$63,300. Additional appropriations amounting to \$129,400 would also have to be made under section 31, to be offset by an equivalent increase in income in section 1. Further, the current temporary-assistance posts would be converted into established posts and one post would be reclassified from the P-5 to the D-1 level. Conference-servicing costs in the amount of \$546,300 would be considered separately in the consolidated list of conference-servicing needs.

147. Mr. FARMER (Australia), explaining his vote before the vote, regretted having to vote against the proposal of Venezuela because he could not accept a rejection of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on matters which in his judgement had not been sufficiently explained. The negative vote of his delegation in no way minimized the importance it attached to the activities of the Centre and its support for them, but simply had to do with the technical aspects of the requests submitted.

148. Mr. SUEDI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he would vote in favour of the proposal of Venezuela, because he was fully aware of the significance the work of the Centre had for all developing countries. However, he wished to express his concern over the manner in which the Secretary-General had submitted his proposals and found the recommendations of the Advisory Committee most justified.

149. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt) said that, since the Centre for Science and Technology for Development was in its initial operating stages, it should be granted all the financial resources and personnel it needed to carry out its activities adequately. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of the proposal of Venezuela.

150. At the request of the representative of Yugoslavia, a recorded vote was taken on the proposal of Venezuela.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

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Abstaining: Ivory Coast, Japan, Turkey.

151. The proposal of Venezuela was adopted by 65 votes to 23, with 3 abstentions.

Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (A/C.5/35/91)

152. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) proposed, with respect to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of document A/C.5/35/91 and of paragraphs 15 to 18 of document A/35/7/Add.32 containing the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee, and should grant the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme the authority requested in paragraph 10 of document A/C.5/35/91.

153. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was adopted.

Arabic as an official and working language of the Commission on Human Settlements (A/C.5/35/99)

154. The CHAIRMAN suggested, as a result of consultations held with various delegations, that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of resolutions 1980/47 of the Economic and Social Council and 3/4 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its third session, and that it should decide that the inclusion of Arabic as an official language of the Commission on Human Settlements was in conformity with the provisions of the resolution that the Assembly had adopted on the basis of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/35/L.19, which the Fifth Committee had already approved. If there were no objections, the Chairman would take it that the Committee accepted the suggestion.

155. It was so decided.

Establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters (A/C.5/35/76, A/C.5/35/L.52)

156. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/76), had exchanged views with the Secretary-General's representatives, and had heard a statement by the President of the Staff Committee. In paragraphs 2 to 9 of his report, the Secretary-General had provided background information and had referred to recent events which had led him to propose the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters. The financial implications of his proposal were contained in paragraphs 10 to 29 of the report.

157. According to the proposal, the child-care centre would be located in the southern extension of the Secretariat and would cover a total area of 4,100 square feet, to cater for 70 children. Construction costs would total \$178,000 in 1981. Associated capital equipment costs to start up the centre would amount to \$40,000

in 1982. According to the Secretary-General, the operating budget would amount to approximately \$210,000 per annum, to be financed largely from income from tuition fees, support from UNDP and UNICEF, and through fund-raising efforts. Indirect costs relating to space occupancy, water, electricity, cleaning and so forth, were estimated at \$114,000 per annum, to be absorbed under section 28 of the regular budget. Other indirect expenses, such as the cost of providing access to the Medical Service, and general insurance costs would also have to be absorbed. Furthermore, the Secretary-General had indicated that he would seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee for a self-liquidating advance under the provisions of resolutions relating to the Working Capital Fund. That would provide the child-care centre with working capital. In the meantime, the Secretary-General would endeavour to obtain an appropriation of \$178,000 for construction costs under section 32 of the budget.

158. Although the Advisory Committee was in favour of the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters, it was not convinced that the Secretary-General's proposal would provide the best possible solution. Apart from the fact that priority had previously been given to the space provisions of the Language Training Service, the proposals relating to the financing of the child-care centre lacked clarity. Inter alia, no information had been provided on how the tuition fees payable by staff members would be determined. Neither was there any information on general insurance costs, which might well be very high. In addition, bearing in mind the survey carried out by the Staff Council in 1979, the Advisory Committee doubted whether a child-care centre of the size proposed by the Secretary-General would be adequate to meet existing needs. The representatives of the Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee that, given the proposed location of the centre, possibilities for expanding it at a later date would be limited.

159. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should propose to the General Assembly that it should invite the Secretary-General to reconsider the question of the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters, and to submit new proposals to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

160. Mr. HOUNGAVOU (Benin) said that his delegation supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

161. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said that her delegation felt that the question of the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters was very important and that it would benefit not only the working mother but also the family as a whole. It would satisfy to some extent the needs of the staff in that area, as indicated in the survey carried out by the Staff Council in 1979.

162. Her delegation believed that the question had already been sufficiently examined and that a decision should no longer be delayed. Moreover, as noted in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report, an additional cost of \$122,000 for construction would be incurred if the decision were postponed.

(Pres. Barish, Costa Rica)

163. Bearing in mind those considerations, her delegation introduced draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.52, requesting the adoption of the necessary measures for the immediate commencement of the construction of the child-care centre to enable it to begin operations in September 1981.

164. Her delegation was confident that the draft resolution would have the support of those who were socially and humanly sensitive, given that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush and that it was preferable to have something good rather than nothing at all.

165. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation was in agreement with the objectives of Costa Rica's proposal, but it disagreed as to the means to achieve those objectives.

166. The main problem was that the proposed child-care centre would benefit only 70 children, whereas, according to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/76, para. 8), a total of 378 children were in need of such services. Consequently, the proposed child-care centre would be inadequate to satisfy the needs of the Secretariat staff and to offer services to the children of members of missions to the United Nations.

167. The Secretary-General had indicated in his report that the cost of operating the child-care centre would amount to \$350,000. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee had expressed doubt that the figure reflected the actual cost, since the insurance costs would be high. Parents would have to pay tuition fees of almost \$3,000 per child, an amount which only 15 to 20 per cent of the staff members directly interested in the child-care centre could afford.

168. There was a great shortage of space at Headquarters which affected the work of the Organization. It seemed that more than 26,000 square feet of space for offices were needed immediately. The space available in the Secretariat and General Assembly building should be exclusively reserved for the work of the Secretariat. The child-care centre would require several thousand square feet which, after a prolonged debate in the Fifth Committee, had been assigned to the Training Service.

169. For those reasons, his delegation proposed that the Fifth Committee should support the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and that the Secretary-General should submit to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session a new proposal which might be acceptable to the Committee.

170. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was completely convinced of the need to establish a child-care centre at United Nations Headquarters. Nevertheless, it opposed the hasty adoption of a badly conceived plan, at the end of an exceedingly arduous session, when the Fifth Committee's programme was overburdened and the Advisory Committee did not have time to examine the proposal and comment on it.

171. His delegation had always recognized that, since the General Assembly had established a subsidized child-care centre in Geneva, it was neither just nor

(Mr. Stuart, United Kingdom)

reasonable to deny a similar service at Headquarters. It also recognized that resolution 33/143, as well as the resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee in 1980 on the need for women in the Professional category and above, made it all the more necessary to have a service which would be an incentive for women who wished to work for the United Nations.

172. A badly conceived and inadequate plan, however, could contribute to the demoralization of staff members. According to the proposals contained in document A/C.5/35/76, there would be room for 70 children, whereas the total demand was estimated in the same report to be 378. The report did not explain how those 70 children would be selected. It was obvious that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.52 did not believe that it was an adequate solution, since paragraph 3 urged the Secretary-General to make openings available to all those who needed them.

173. In the opinion of his delegation, it would be more realistic to follow the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and adopt, at the 1980 session, a decision in principle that a plan would be presented in 1982 in accordance with the estimated needs. In addition, the Secretary-General would be requested to submit new proposals at the thirty-sixth session, in which the relationship between the supply and demand of openings would be taken into account and which would include data on the economic means of parents, so that the Fifth Committee might form an opinion on the question of economic need and the possibility of granting subsidies according to the income level of parents. It should also be explained why a well-paid staff could not afford the total costs of child-care facilities. Moreover, future demand should be taken into account in the proposals, so that Member States did not have to bear the excessive cost of an unforeseen increase in facilities, if that could be avoided by means of rational planning from the beginning.

174. Consequently, his delegation asked the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.52 to withdraw their proposal and urged the Committee to adopt the ACABQ recommendation by consensus.

175. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that she was not absolutely opposed to the concept of assistance as embodied in draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.52 but that she considered it necessary to adopt an approach with respect to women and children which was not limited to the aspect of social assistance. That was why her delegation was opposed to taking a hasty decision with regard to a draft resolution that did not have a sound basis.

176. The Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/76) was, in the view of her delegation, superficial and incomplete. It was indicated in paragraph 12 of the report that an enrolment of 70 children was planned in the child-care centre; obviously a centre with such a limited capacity would provide only a temporary solution to the problem and the Fifth Committee would have to deal with it again at a later stage. As to the argument put forward in paragraph 14 to the effect that deferring a decision until the following year would involve an additional cost of \$122,000, she believed that that amount was small in comparison to the benefits which would be derived from a project that was better thought out. In paragraph 26 reference was made to a fee scale to be set by the Board of Directors, but no explanation was given as to what that scale would be.

/...

(Mrs. Dorset, Trinidad and Tobago)

177. The draft resolution before the Committee, which requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that all children of staff members whose circumstances so required would be accepted in the child-care facilities "even if the quota has been filled", was, in her view, both confused and quite unrealistic.

178. Her delegation was firmly convinced of the need for a child-care centre but was prepared to support only a plan which was soundly based on long-term projections and not a temporary solution. It was to be hoped that the recommendation of ACABQ would be adopted, pending the submission of specific information on the capacity of the child-care facilities, financing arrangements, the possibility of granting subsidies and the total duration of the project.

179. Mrs. BARISH (Costa Rica) said that the child-care facilities envisaged in draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.52 were intended to benefit those parents who had problems taking care of their children during the day. While she acknowledged that the figure of 70 children on which the estimates presented in the Secretary-General's report was small, it was also indicated in the report that the original architectural plans could be subsequently expanded.

180. Since the Advisory Committee was not opposed to the establishment of a child-care centre and the delegation of Pakistan had expressed its agreement in principle, her delegation would not press for a decision on the draft resolution in the hope that the establishment of the day-care facilities would not be rejected at a later date.

181. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should take note of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/76) and request him to submit a new study at the thirty-sixth session, taking into account the oral report of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the comments made by delegations. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee agreed to his proposal.

182. It was so decided.

183. Mrs. MUCK (Austria) said that her delegation was among those which had previously advocated the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters. It considered such a step to be an important measure of social policy to complement the resolutions which had been adopted by the Fifth Committee on personnel questions. Her delegation had been prepared to vote in favour of the proposal to establish a child-care centre at Headquarters, had it been put to a vote.

184. Mr. MAGARA (Uganda) said that, while his delegation was in favour of establishing a child-care centre at Headquarters, it believed that the proposal before the Committee had been hastily submitted and required further study. *Accordingly, it had joined in the consensus in favour of the recommendation that a new report on the matter should be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.*

185. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) thanked the representative of Costa Rica for having withdrawn the draft resolution on the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters and expressed confidence that an adequate proposal could be placed before the Fifth Committee at the next session.

186. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that his delegation supported the establishment of a child-care centre at United Nations Headquarters and hoped that the Secretary-General would present proposals the following year which would meet with the Advisory Committee's approval. He also expressed the hope that the matter would not be taken up quite so late in the next session.

187. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MENDOZA (Venezuela) endorsed the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters and said that, had the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Costa Rica been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted in favour of it.

188. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, while his delegation understood the need of the staff for child-care facilities, it would have had to vote against the draft resolution submitted by Costa Rica if it had been put to a vote. His delegation maintained that such facilities should be provided by a private concern and be financed entirely from school fees or private contributions so that they would not be charged against the regular budget of the United Nations.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (chaps. II, III, V-VIII, XI-XXII, XXVI, XXVIII, XXIX, XXXVI and XXXVII) (A/35/3, A/35/3/Add.2, Add.3, Add.5-8, Add.11-22, Add.26, Add.28, Add.29, Add.36 and Add.37)

189. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should take note of chapters II, III, V-VIII, XI-XXII, XXVI, XXVIII, XXIX, XXXVI and XXXVII of the report of the Economic and Social Council. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to adopt his proposal.

190. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.50 a.m.