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Agenda item 46

REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS

Draft Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Niaz A. NAIK (Pakistan)

1. At its 757th meeting held on 3 December 1959, the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds (A/4267). In addition to the Report, the Fifth Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.597) submitted by Argentina, Canada, Lebanon, New Zealand and Pakistan.
2. The Chairman of the Negotiating Committee, Mr. Derek C. Arnould, Canada, introduced the Committee's report. Referring to the procedure of holding meetings of an ad hoc Committee of the whole Assembly for the announcement of contributions to the two refugee programmes, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - the Chairman explained that it had this year been necessary to adopt a procedure different from that followed in previous years. As the future of UNRWA was being reviewed by the General Assembly, the Negotiating Committee was of the opinion that it would not be desirable to hold the pledging conference for UNRWA until the future of the agency had been decided. It had considered the possibility of separate sessions for the two refugee programmes, but had decided in favour of a joint conference at which Governments would also report on their countries' efforts for World Refugee Year. This would emphasize the importance of the Conference and mark the occasion of World Refugee Year. He had now been informed that the date of the conference had been tentatively fixed for 9 December provided that the UNRWA item had been completed by that time.

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3. On account of the late date of the Conference, it would not be possible for the Negotiating Committee to submit a supplementary written report analysing the results of the Conference and making its recommendations on the continuation of the procedure of a special pledging conference for the two refugee programmes, as well as on the extension of the mandate of the Committee itself. The Negotiating Committee had, therefore, authorized him to present an oral supplementary report.

4. As regards the meetings of the ad hoc Committee of the whole Assembly, the Negotiating Committee on the basis of the results of such meetings held in previous years considered that this procedure had proved its usefulness, and would recommend its continuation. The Negotiating Committee had wished to reiterate the rules for the conference set out in paragraph 21 of its report, namely: (1) that the meetings should be held as early as practicable in the session; (2) in order to assure maximum attendance as great advance publicity as possible should be given to them, and (3) they should be so scheduled that no other meetings were held at the same time, and it hoped that these rules would be reaffirmed by the General Assembly.

5. Concerning the continuation of the mandate of the Negotiating Committee, which expires at the close of the fourteenth session, the representatives of the two refugee agencies and of UNICEF had expressed the hope that the services of the Committee would continue to be available to them next year. The Committee itself was of the opinion that it had a useful function to perform and taking into account the wishes of the agencies with which it was concerned, decided to recommend that the Negotiating Committee should be re-established for another year. If this recommendation were endorsed by the General Assembly, it would be the intention of the Committee to continue its series of visits to the permanent delegations. The Chairman of the Negotiating Committee stressed, however, that the continuance of the Committee would not in itself discharge the General Assembly from its responsibility for ensuring the financial support for the agencies created by the Assembly to meet a recognized need.

6. The representative of Pakistan, in introducing the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.597) stated that this resolution recommended the continuation of the procedure of convening an ad hoc committee of the whole Assembly for the two

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refugee programmes, and that these meetings be held as early as possible after the opening of the General Assembly when many Ministers for Foreign Affairs were still in New York, which would ensure attendance at the meetings at the highest level. The draft resolution also recommended that the Negotiating Committee be re-established for another year.

7. The question of UNRWA was still before the General Assembly, but from the discussion so far it was evident that assistance to the refugees in some form or another would be continued, a majority of the delegations having requested that the UNRWA mandate be continued.

8. The result of the voting on the draft resolution, a separate vote on operative paragraph 2 having been requested by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was as follows:

	<u>In favour</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Operative paragraph 2	44	8	4
Draft resolution as a whole	48	0	8

Recommendations of the Committee

9. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution.

REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds appointed at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly,

Decides that:

1. An ad hoc Committee of the whole Assembly, under the chairmanship of the President of the session, shall be convened as soon as practicable after the opening of the fifteenth session, where pledges of voluntary contributions for the refugee programmes for the following year would be announced;

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2. States not Members of the United Nations, but members of one or more of the specialized agencies, shall be invited to attend the meetings of the ad hoc Committee for the purpose of announcing their pledges to the refugee programmes;

3. In order to ensure maximum attendance, as great advance publicity as possible shall be given to the meetings of the ad hoc Committee and they shall be so scheduled that no other meetings are held at the same time.

B

The General Assembly

1. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint a Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds consisting of not more than ten members with the same terms of reference as those laid down in Assembly resolution 693 (VII) of 25 October 1952, to serve from the close of the fourteenth session to the close of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifteenth session the item entitled "Report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds".
