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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the use of experts
and consultants in the United Nations

Draft paragraph submitted by the Rapporteur for inclusion in
the report of the Fifth Committee

1. The Fifth Committee considered the reports on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit (A/9112), the Secretary-General (A/9112/Add.1 and A/C.5/1611) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/9112/Add.2). The Fifth Committee concurred with the recommendations of JIU, as modified by the related comments and observations of ACABQ, and decided to request the Secretary-General to take them fully into account in the preparation and the implementation of the comprehensive system of policies/procedures and practices he has undertaken to issue soon in the form of codified administrative instructions applicable to all departments and offices of the Secretariat.

2. In this connexion, the Fifth Committee pointed out that these instructions should include in particular:

(a) The requirement that experts and consultants should be recruited only from highly qualified candidates in the specific field in question;

(b) The criterion that outside expertise should be resorted to primarily for specific assignments and only for the services for which provision cannot be found within the established staff of the Secretariat for lack of specialized knowledge and/or expertise;

(c) The principle that experts and consultants should, when appropriate, be appointed from a wider and more representative number of countries than is being done at present and that these should include a larger number from the developing countries.

3. The Fifth Committee stressed also that:

(a) The Secretary-General should ensure that expenditure for consultant services is maintained within the approved figure for 1974-1975 and that no supplementary estimates are presented;

(b) The estimates under this heading in future biennial programme budgets should be prepared with determined restraint, with a view to achieving reductions in the funds requested for this field of activities;

(c) Priority in the use of consultant services should be given to programmes more directly related to economic and social development.

4. Finally, the Fifth Committee took note of the stated intention of the Secretary-General to present, at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, a follow-up report on the implementation of the new system.
