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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD

Question of pension coverage for members
of the Joint Inspection Unit

1. The Joint Inspection Unit was established in 1968 pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2150 (XXI) of 4 November 1966 and 2360 (XXII) of 19 December 1967. Its continuation beyond the initial experimental period of four years up to the end of December 1971 has been agreed upon periodically. Thus, by its resolution 2735 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, the Assembly decided to extend the Unit's mandate up to the end of 1973. Subsequently, by its resolution 2924 (XXVII) of 24 November 1972, the Assembly decided that in 1976, at its thirty-first session, it would evaluate the work of the Unit in conjunction with an over-all review of the machinery of the United Nations and of its systems for administrative and budgetary control, investigation and co-ordination. At the same time, it was provided that the Unit should be continued for a further period of four years up to the end of 1977. By then, it will have been in existence for 10 years.

2. The members of the Unit, although by the very nature of their terms of reference not regarded as members of the international staff, serve on a full-time basis for renewable periods of four years, receive emoluments equivalent to those payable at the Director (D-2) level and have comparable leave, insurance and subsistence entitlements. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3188 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, they have also been included in the categories of officials to which the provisions of articles V and VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations shall apply. However, no steps have hitherto been taken to provide them with pension coverage, either by means of possible participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund or in accordance with some alternative arrangements, as indeed, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had originally suggested 1/

1/ Economic and Social Council, Annexes, Forty-third Session, agenda item 19, document E/4401, para. 10.

"might be considered by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in appropriate cases".

3. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has recently considered the desirability of providing, in some suitable fashion, access to pension coverage for members of the Unit. While recognizing that the future of the Unit is to be the subject of review and decision at the end of 1976, it believes that preliminary inquiry into possible alternative methods of pension coverage should be instituted now, so that, in the event that the General Assembly decides to continue the Unit for a further period of years, it may also be in a position to decide, without further delay, the type of pension plan that should be provided.

4. Although pension coverage for members of the Unit might be provided in a number of ways, the method which most readily presents itself would be to arrange for participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. Since this would require amendment of the Regulations of the Fund, to permit the participation of individuals who are not staff members of any participating organization, the matter would, in the first instance, need to be referred to the Joint Staff Pension Board at its next meeting.

5. The Secretary-General suggests, therefore, that the General Assembly may wish to request the Joint Staff Pension Board, at its next session, to consider this question and to prepare a draft amendment to the Regulations that would permit the inclusion of members of the Joint Inspection Unit among those eligible to participate in the Fund, notwithstanding the fact that they are not staff members of any participating organization.

6. The Secretary-General suggests further that he be authorized to explore alternative methods of providing coverage for members of the Unit and report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.
