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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

Nigeria and Poland: draft paragraph for inclusion in the
report of the Fifth Committee

Revised draft paragraph

The Fifth Committee considered the reports on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations submitted by the Joint Inspection Union (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 the JIU, as modified by the related comments and observations of the 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 undertook to issue soon under the form of codified administrative instructions applicable to all departments and offices of the Secretariat.

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

- (i) A clear definition of the terms "expert" and "consultant";
- (ii) The requirement that experts and consultants should be recruited only from highly qualified candidates in the specific field in question and should possess adequate recommendations from an institution or recognized authority in that field;
- (iii) The principle that outside expertise should be resorted to primarily for specific assignments and should not be used for assignments of a long-term nature for which provision ought to be sought within the established staff of the Secretariat;

- (iv) The principle that experts and consultants should be appointed on a wide geographical basis.

The Fifth Committee stressed also that:

(a) The Secretary-General should ensure that expenditure for consultancy services be maintained within the approved figure for 1974-75, and that no supplementary estimates be presented;

(b) The estimates under this heading in future biennial budgets should be prepared with determined restraint, with a view to achieving substantial reductions and in an attempt to establish a more reasonable percentage relationship between expenditure for outside expertise and the budgetary provisions for salaries and common staff costs;

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

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.
