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FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 92

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

Draft report of the Fifth Committee (Part I)

Rapporteur: Mr. E. Brian NASON (Ireland)

1. By its resolution 3539 (XXX) of 17 December 1975, the General Assembly approved a total appropriation of \$745,813,800 under the various expenditure sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 and estimates of income from various sources during the same period in a total amount of \$118,292,300 or a net assessment level of \$627,521,500.
2. Under agenda item 92, the Fifth Committee examined the budget and programme performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 (A/C.5/31/37 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/25). In his report, the Secretary-General requested an additional appropriation of \$13,300,500 for the biennium as a whole, based on developments and expenditure trends during the first six months of the biennium, and projections in respect of the balance of the financial period. He also proposed a reduction of \$282,800 in the estimates of income.
3. In addition, proposed additional appropriations in a total amount of \$ _____ and revised estimates totalling \$ _____ were examined by the Committee on the basis of a number of other reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see para. below).
4. The Fifth Committee recommends an increase in the gross appropriation approved by the General Assembly in resolution 3539 (XXX) of \$ _____ to \$ _____ and an increase in the total estimated income of \$ _____ to \$ _____.
5. The views expressed during the discussion of the special subjects under this agenda item are reflected in the summary records of the Fifth Committee for the meetings indicated in the text which follows in respect of each subject.

Emoluments of members of the International Court of Justice

6. The question of emoluments of members of the International Court of Justice was discussed by the Committee at its 10th and 12th to 14th meetings of the current session on 18, 20, 21 and 22 October, respectively.

7. For its consideration of this item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/13) as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.3), to which was annexed the following draft resolution for the consideration of the Committee:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its decision in resolution 3537 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 to fix the annual salary of the members of the International Court of Justice at \$US 50,000 with effect from 1 January 1976,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

"1. Decides that the annual salaries of members of the International Court of Justice shall next be reviewed at its thirty-fifth session and thereafter normally every five years;

"2. Decides further, with effect from 1 January 1977, that in between such periodic reviews, the members of the International Court of Justice may receive, in addition to their annual salary, as defined in Article 32, paragraphs 1 and 5, of the Statute of the Court, also an interim cost-of-living supplement which shall not be deemed to form part of the said salary and the amount of which shall be governed by the provisions set out in paragraph 17 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

"3. Decides that the allowances and compensation provided for in Article 32, paragraphs 2 to 4, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and the retirement pensions given to members of the Court shall be reviewed concurrently with the review of their annual salary, and that the system of interim adjustments shall not apply to them."

8. The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was introduced by its Chairman at the 10th meeting of the Fifth Committee, on 18 October.

9. At the 12th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of the Philippines orally proposed the following two amendments to the draft resolution (A/31/8/Add.3, annex):

1/ A/C.5/31/13.

2/ A/31/8/Add.3.

(a) The addition of the following as a new third preambular paragraph:

"Taking into account the views expressed by members of the Fifth Committee,".

(b) The insertion of the word "periodic" before the word "review" in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

10. The first of the Philippine amendments, i.e. the addition of a new third preambular paragraph, was withdrawn at the 13th meeting.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

11. At its 14th meeting, the Fifth Committee, by 61 votes to 16, with 5 abstentions, adopted the draft resolution (A/31/8/Add.3, annex) as amended by the Philippines (see paragraph 107 below, draft resolution I).

Yearbook of the United Nations

12. The report of the Secretary-General on the Yearbook of the United Nations (A/C.5/31/12) was considered by the Committee along with the question of the United Nations information centres system at its 10th to 13th and 18th meetings, from 18 to 28 October.
13. The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/12), which was submitted in response to a decision taken by the General Assembly at its 2444th plenary meeting, on 17 December 1975, 3/ wherein the Secretary-General was requested to explore ways and means of ensuring a more timely publication of the Yearbook without impairing its quality and high standards, and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-first session, was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information at the 10th meeting of the Committee.
14. Also at the 10th meeting, the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/31/8/Add.1) was introduced by its Chairman in an oral statement before the Committee.
15. In order to achieve a timely issue of the Yearbook (i.e. within an 18-month period), the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/31/12) requested additional staff resources for the Yearbook Unit within the Office of Public Information with financial implications amounting to \$108,500 in 1977 and \$136,500 in 1978, net of staff assessment.
16. In paragraph 13 of its report (A/31/8/Add.1/Corr.1), the Advisory Committee stated that acceptance of its recommendations in paragraphs 7 to 12 of its report (A/31/8/Add.1) would mean a reduction of \$31,200 in the Secretary-General's estimates of financial implications for both 1977 and 1978. An additional amount of \$77,300 would be required for the biennium 1976-1977 as against the \$108,500 set forth in detail by the Secretary-General in paragraph 19 of his report (A/C.5/31/12).
17. At the 13th meeting, the representative of Pakistan proposed that, in taking a decision on this question, the Committee should also endorse the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in paragraph 51 of its report on the work of its sixteenth session, 3/ in which it stated:

"In connexion with the United Nations Yearbook, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should give this important publication the high priority it deserved by reassigning adequate resources, by ensuring the timely submission of reports by different units and by streamlining production methods. The Committee considered that this important publication should be ready within a year after the end of the regular session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to its recognized quality and high standards of objectivity."

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38).

18. At the 18th meeting, after some debate on the proposal, the representative of Pakistan decided to withdraw it in view of the apparent contradiction between the 18-month target mentioned by the Secretary-General and the 12-month target recommended by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. His delegation did not wish to create an artificial controversy over a matter which for all practical purposes was resolved. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information had stated his commitment for the timely publication of the Yearbook, and his delegation was confident that after the current backlog was cleared the Secretary-General would make every reasonable effort to achieve a 12-month target without requesting additional funds.

19. At its 18th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee took the following action:

(a) It decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/12);

(b) By 69 votes to 9, with 1 abstention, it decided to recommend that the General Assembly should concur with the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee in its report (A/31/8/Add.1);

(c) By 68 votes to 12, with 4 abstentions, it decided to recommend that the General Assembly should approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 13 of its report (A/31/8/Add.1/Corr.1).

20. The comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this question, as well as the explanations of vote, are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.10-13 and 18).

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

21. At its 18th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Yearbook of the United Nations (A/C.5/31/12);

(b) Concur with the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/31/8/Add.1);

(c) Approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 13 of its report (A/31/8/Add.1/Corr.1) (see para. below).

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United Nations information centres system

22. The item on the United Nations information centres system was considered by the Committee at its 10th to 13th meetings, from 18 to 21 October.

23. For its consideration of this question the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/14) containing the results of an over-all review of the information centres system which was initiated in 1973, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.2).

24. The report of the Advisory Committee was introduced by its Chairman in an oral statement before the Committee at its 10th meeting.

25. The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information introduced the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/14) at the 10th meeting and, at the 13th meeting, orally replied to a number of questions raised during the consideration of this question.

26. The comments and observations made by delegations in the course of the discussion are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.3/SR.10-13).

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

27. At its 13th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations information centres system (A/C.5/31/14);

(b) Concur with the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report (A/31/8/Add.2) (see para. below).

Future trend in computer usage

28. The Committee discussed the report of the Secretary-General on the electronic data processing and information systems in the United Nations (A/C.5/31/3), as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/255), at its 15th, 21st, 23rd, 25th and 27th meetings, on 25 October, 2, 4, 8 and 10 November, respectively.

29. The report of the Advisory Committee (A/31/255) was orally introduced by its Chairman at the 15th meeting of the Fifth Committee.

30. In its report the Advisory Committee concluded that there was need for greater discipline in the use of electronic data processing facilities at Headquarters (New York Computing Centre). Accordingly, it recommended the establishment in the Secretariat of an interdepartmental information systems board which would conduct annual reviews of the information systems in each department and would meet on a regular basis to review, evaluate and approve requests to the Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Service (EDPIS) for new computer-based information systems, including those requests put forward as part of the medium-term plan. In this connexion, it recommended that the rental replacement of a computer requested by the Secretary-General should be delayed until after the board was established and had carried out the necessary reviews. The funds requested by the Secretary-General for this purpose (\$332,200) would be released after the Advisory Committee was satisfied that the necessary safeguards were in place and functioning.

31. The Advisory Committee could not agree to the Secretary-General's request for funds for the purchase of additional interactive remote processing equipment in 1977. It noted that the Secretary-General had approached the question of such an acquisition piecemeal, and believed that the wider implications of the subject warranted the undertaking of co-ordinated feasibility studies of the needs of all programmes.

32. As to the electronic data processing programmes in Geneva, Vienna, UNEP and the regional commissions, the Advisory Committee observed that the need for discipline and co-ordination which it had emphasized with respect to the NYCC facilities applied to all centres.

33. The comments and observations of delegations in the course of the discussion on this question, as well as the comments and replies to queries of the representative of the Secretary-General, are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.15, 21, 23, 25 and 27).

34. At its 27th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, approved by 64 votes to 9, with 3 abstentions, an additional appropriation of \$359,900 under section 22 D (EDPIS) and \$153,400 under section 22 G (Administrative and Financial Services, Geneva), and \$24,900 under income section 1 and \$290,000 under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977.

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DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

35. At its 27th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/3) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/255);

(b) Take note of the views expressed by delegations in the Fifth Committee;

(c) Endorse the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/31/255) (see para. below).

Review of action taken on the recommendations of
the Administrative Management Service

36. The Fifth Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of action taken on the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service (AMS) (A/C.5/31/6) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.5) at its 21st, 24th and 25th meetings on 2, 5 and 8 November, respectively. Also before the Committee was a report of the Secretary-General on the question of a merger of AMS and the Internal Audit Service (A/C.5/31/29).

37. At its 24th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to deal with the question of the future of AMS when it considered agenda item 96 (Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency).

38. The report of the Advisory Committee was orally introduced by its Chairman at the 21st meeting.

39. The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management commented on the role of AMS and replied to observations made during the discussion in an oral statement before the Committee at its 24th meeting.

40. In paragraphs 12 to 19 of its report (A/31/8/Add.5), the Advisory Committee, commenting on the report of the Secretary-General on the review of action taken on the recommendations of AMS (A/C.5/31/6), made a number of suggestions which it believed, if taken, would help to make AMS more effective. In particular, it believed that staff at all levels of the Secretariat should be made aware that management and other improvement efforts have the full backing of the Secretary-General, and that once it had been decided by the Secretary-General that an AMS recommendation was in the interest of the Organization, the recommendation should be implemented in full. The Advisory Committee suggested also that AMS should have the necessary degree of independence in the exercise of its functions, that it should have sufficient qualified staff to carry out its work and that its role should not be hampered by the establishment of departmental administrative management units.

41. The comments and observations made by delegations in the course of the debate on this question are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.21, 24 and 25).

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

42. On the understanding that the question of the future of the Administrative Management Service would be discussed under agenda item 96, the Fifth Committee, at its 25th meeting, decided without objection to recommend that the General Assembly should:

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(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/6) and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.5);

(b) Concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/31/8/Add.5) (see para. below).

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Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations

43. The Committee considered the question of the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations at its 6th, 7th and 44th meetings, on 11 and 13 October and 9 December, respectively.

44. For its consideration of this item the Committee had before it the report on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations (A/C.5/31/10 and Corr.1) submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to a decision taken by the General Assembly at its 2444th plenary meeting, on 17 December 1975.

45. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated the views of the Advisory Committee on the report of the Secretary-General in an oral statement before the Committee at the sixth meeting.

46. The representative of the Secretary-General made an oral statement at the same meeting.

47. When the Committee resumed its discussion on this item at its 44th meeting it had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/10/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1) containing statistical information, covering the period 1 January to 30 June 1976, with respect to the new procedure instituted for the recruitment of consultants, experts and individual contractors.

48. In reply to comments made and questions raised in the course of the debate, oral statements were made at the 44th meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General and the Chief of the Secretariat Recruitment Service.

49. At the same meeting, the representative of Poland proposed a draft decision to the Committee whereby the Committee would recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; reaffirm the decisions it had taken on this question in 1974 and 1975; and request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the implementation of these decisions (for the text of the draft resolution, see para. below).

50. The comments and observations made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this question are reflected in the summary records of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.6, 7 and 44).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

51. At its 44th meeting, the Committee decided, without objection, to recommend the draft resolution proposed by Poland to the General Assembly for adoption (see para. 107 below, draft resolution II).

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Establishment of a rationale for the allocation of
expenses between the regular budget and the Fund
of the United Nations Environment Programme

52. When the Committee considered this question at its 45th meeting, it had before it the report of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the establishment of a rationale for the allocation of expenses between the regular budget and the Fund of UNEP (A/C.5/31/39 and Corr.1 and 2), as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.10).

53. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the Advisory Committee's report (A/31/8/Add.10) in an oral statement before the Committee.

54. In paragraph 16 of its report (A/31/8/Add.10), the Advisory Committee stated that it did not recommend acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNEP that the General Assembly and the Governing Council approve a 40:60 ratio as the theoretically appropriate ratio for the distribution of staff costs between the regular budget of the United Nations and the Fund of UNEP. At the same time, it was of the opinion that the present policy whereby no posts are to be added to the regular budget establishment of UNEP need not be extended automatically beyond 1977. However, any proposals by the Secretary-General to increase the regular budget establishment in the biennium 1978-1979, or subsequently, should be accompanied by full justification in terms of functions and grading and should be consistent with the decisions taken or to be taken by the Assembly on the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981 ^{4/} and subsequent medium-term plans.

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

55. At its 45th meeting, after a short discussion, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/39 and Corr.1 and 2) and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.10);

(b) Endorse the conclusions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 16 of its report (see para. below).

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6 A (A/31/6/Add.1 and Corr.1-5).

United Nations accommodation in Addis Ababa,
Bangkok, Santiago and Nairobi

56. The Committee considered this item at its 51st meeting, at which time it had before it the following reports:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation in Addis Ababa, Bangkok and Santiago (A/C.5/31/41);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation in Nairobi (A/C.5/31/45);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the extension of the Palais des Nations (A/C.5/31/20);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stating its comments on the three above-mentioned reports (A/31/8/Add.16).

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

57. At its 51st meeting, the Fifth Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/20, A/C.5/31/41 and A/C.5/31/45);

(b) Take note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.16).

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Emoluments of the members of the International Court of Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision in resolution 3537 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 to fix the annual salary of the members of the International Court of Justice at \$US 50,000 with effect from 1 January 1976,

Having considered the report of the Secretary General _/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, _/

_/ A/C.5/31/13.

_/ A/31/8/Add.3.

/...

1. Decides that the annual salaries of members of the International Court of Justice shall next be reviewed at its thirty-fifth session and thereafter normally every five years;

2. Further decides, with effect from 1 January 1977, that in between such periodic reviews the members of the International Court of Justice may also receive, in addition to their annual salary, as defined in Article 32, paragraphs 1 and 5, of the Statute of the Court, an interim cost-of-living supplement which shall not be deemed to form part of the said salary and the amount of which shall be governed by the provisions set out in paragraph 17 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. Decides that the allowances and compensation provided for in Article 32, paragraphs 2 to 4, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and the retirement pensions given to members of the Court shall be reviewed concurrently with the periodic review of their annual salary, and that the system of interim adjustments shall not apply to them.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations _/ and of the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; _/

2. Reaffirms the decisions taken at its 2325th plenary meeting, on 18 December 1974, and at its 2444th plenary meeting, on 17 December 1975, on the use of experts and consultants;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a further report on the implementation of the aforementioned decisions.

_/ A/C.5/31/10 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

_/ A/C.5/31/SR.6.

/...

Revised estimates resulting from the decision of the Trade and Development Board arising from the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

58. The Committee discussed this question at its 45th, 48th, 51st and meetings at which time it had for its consideration the report of the Secretary-General on this subject (A/C.5/31/49) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.12).

59. In his report (A/C.5/31/49), the Secretary-General indicated that the totality of the financial implications resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its sixteenth session amounted to \$3,044,700. Of this amount, \$2,337,700 was requested for appropriation for the biennium 1976-1977; the difference of \$707,000 related to conference services provided to UNCTAD for which no appropriation was requested at this time.

60. In its report (A/31/8/Add.12), the Advisory Committee recommended reductions in the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General totalling \$479,700. With regard to the amount of \$707,000 relating to conference services provided to UNCTAD, the Advisory Committee suggested that the Fifth Committee might wish to request the Committee on Conferences to study the question of the provision of United Nations services to meetings of regional and other limited access groups and, to the extent possible, recommended guidelines which could be applied in the future.

61. During the discussion of this question, the representative of Sri Lanka proposed that in addition to the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/31/8/Add.12) the following posts which had been requested by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/31/49) be reinstated:

- (1) 1 P-3 post and 1 General Service post for advisory services on the transfer of technology.
- (2) Establishment of an additional P-3 post for manufactures and semi-manufactures programme.
- (3) Establishment of 1 P-3 post and 1 P-2 post for the programme for economic co-operation among developing countries.
- (4) Establishment of 1 P-2 post and 1 General Service post for the special programme for least developed, land-locked and developing island countries.

In the latter connexion, the representative of Afghanistan made a similar proposal with regard to the establishment of an additional P-2 post.

62. The total additions proposed by Sri Lanka and Afghanistan to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee amounted to \$119,900 under section 11 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 and \$24,000 under section 25, offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1.

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63. At its 51st meeting, on 14 December 1976, the Committee decided by 66 votes to 11 with 7 abstentions to adopt the proposal of Sri Lanka and Afghanistan to amend the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as set out in paragraphs and above.

64. The Committee then voted to adopt the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/31/8/Add.12) as amended by 72 votes to 11 with 6 abstentions.

65. As a result of the Committee's action the revised estimates, totalling \$1,977,900 are to be included in the programme budget for 1976-1977 as follows:

Section 11	-	\$1,847,900
Section 22	-	\$ 130,000
Section 25	-	\$ 334,000
Income section 1	-	\$ 334,000

66. At the 51st meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom orally proposed that the Committee endorse the last sentence of paragraph 23 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/31/8/Add.12).

67. The sentence in question read as follows:

"The Advisory Committee suggests that the Fifth Committee may wish to request the Committee on Conferences to study the question of the provision of United Nations services to meetings of regional and other limited access groups and, to the extent possible, recommend guidelines which could be applied in the future."

68. At the 57th meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka proposed the following draft decision (A/C.5/31/L.37):

"The Fifth Committee,

"Having considered the revised estimate 1/ resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board arising from the Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session, and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon, 2/

"1. Decides that the extent of the greater flexibility for UNCTAD in budgetary, financial and administrative matters to be accorded should be such as to enable UNCTAD to make the best use of its resources according to the demands made of it;

1/ A/C.5/31/49.

2/ A/31/8/Add.12.

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, at the earliest opportunity, to clarify the reasons for strengthening the office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; meanwhile a flexible use of UNCTAD resources may provide his office with the desired strengthening;

"3. Recommends that the provision of UNCTAD services for meetings of different kinds be further considered by the Trade and Development Board as necessary with a view to taking the appropriate decisions."

Sri Lanka subsequently withdrew paragraph 3 of his draft proposal.

69. The oral proposal made by the United Kingdom was rejected by 45 votes to 26 with 20 abstentions.

70. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (A/C.3/31/L.37), as amended by Sri Lanka by 86 votes to 9 with 5 abstentions.

71. Statements made by the representative of the Secretary-General in reply to queries raised and the comments and explanations of vote of delegations are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.45, 48, 51 and 57).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

72. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly for adoption draft resolution III in paragraph 107 below.

Revised estimates in respect of the Centre on
Transnational Corporations

73. This question was considered by the Committee at its 58th and 59th meetings. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates under sections 4, 5B, 22, 25 and income section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977, relating to the transnational corporations major programme (A/C.5/31/25). The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was before the Committee in document A/31/8/Add.19.

74. In his report, the Secretary-General requested total additional appropriations under sections 4, 5, 22D, 22J and 26 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 in the amount of \$3,784,000 and under income section 1, \$281,700. The Advisory Committee in its report (A/31/8/Add.19) recommended a net additional appropriation of \$1,939,000.

75. In the course of the discussion at the 58th meeting the representative of Greece, in connexion with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, proposed the restoration of the 18 Professional and 13 General Service posts as follows: 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 3 P-3, 5 P-4, 4 P-3, 3 P-2/1, 3 G-5, 10 G-4/1.

76. The effect of the Greek proposal would increase the total net appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee for the biennium 1976-1977 by \$639,000.

77. The representative of Canada submitted a draft decision in document A/C.5/31/L.59. Upon introducing his proposal at the 59th meeting the representative of Canada announced some oral amendments to the draft which finally read as follows:

"The Fifth Committee

"Decides that, before any decision is reached on software for the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Secretary-General should give full consideration to suitable alternative packages including the Integrated Set of Information Systems (ISIS) and report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

78. The Committee decided to adopt the Canadian draft decision by consensus (see paragraph _____ below).

79. The Committee then voted on the proposal of Greece and adopted it by a recorded vote of 63 votes to 18 with 5 abstentions.

80. As a result of the adoption of the Greek proposal revised estimates totalling \$2,578,000, are to be included in the programme budget for 1976-1977 as follows:

/:::

Section 4	-	\$ 100,000	
Section 5	-	\$1,750,000	
Section 22 (a)	-	\$ 383,000	
Section 22 (j)	-	\$ 345,000	
Section 25	-	\$ 268,000	to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1

81. Comments and observations made during the discussion of this question are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.59).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

82. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly decide that before any decision is reached on software for the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the Secretary-General should give full consideration to suitable alternative packages including the Integrated Set of Information Systems (ISIS), and report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Arabic language services in the United Nations

83. This question was considered by the Fifth Committee at its 60th meeting on 21 December 1976 at which time it had before it a report of the Secretary-General on Arabic language services in the United Nations (A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1), as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.26).

84. In paragraphs 14-25 of his report (A/C.5/31/60) the Secretary-General proposed an organizational arrangement for the Arabic language services.

85. In paragraph 12 of its report (A/31/8/Add.26) the Advisory Committee stated that it did not concur in the Secretary-General's request for \$108,000 for 1977 for rental and operating costs. In paragraph 13 it expressed the opinion that the Secretary-General should take steps towards co-ordinating efforts among the specialized agencies and the Organization in developing Arabic language services. In paragraph 14, it expressed the understanding that the experience to be gained from the organizational arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General would be reviewed at the end of the three-year period 1977-1979 and trusted that a report thereon would be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

86. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the Advisory Committee's report in an oral statement before the Committee.

87. During the discussion of this item, it was proposed by some delegations that the Secretary-General should submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the success of, and on any difficulties which may be experienced with, his current proposals and also any further ideas or proposals in relation to the positions stated by the Arab delegations who took part in the discussion in the Fifth Committee.

88. All other comments and observations made during the course of the discussion of this item are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/31/SR.60).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

89. The Fifth Committee decided, by consensus, to recommend to the General Assembly that it:

1. take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/60) and approve the organizational arrangements contained in paragraphs 14-25 of that report;
2. concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.26).

Emoluments of the Secretary-General

90. The Fifth Committee considered this question at its 61st meeting on 21 December 1976 at which time it had before it a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/31/8/Add.24) concerning the emoluments of the Secretary-General.

91. In paragraph 5 of its report, the Advisory Committee, taking into account certain decisions of the General Assembly, recommended that the salary of the Secretary-General be increased to \$110,650 gross effective 1 January 1977.

92. In paragraph 6 of its report the Advisory Committee stated that should its recommendations be approved by the General Assembly, there would be a consequential increase in the maximum retirement allowance for the Secretary-General from \$38,000 to \$55,325 a year pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2772 (XXVI) of 29 November 1971.

93. In paragraph 7 of its report the Advisory Committee recommended that, effective 1 January 1977, pensions in payment to former Secretaries-General or their surviving spouses be adjusted proportionately whenever the Assembly takes a decision affecting the maximum retirement allowance for the Secretary-General.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

94. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it:

- (1) concur with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of its report in document A/31/8/Add.24; and
- (2) approve net additional appropriations of \$12,000 under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977, and an increase of \$21,000 for staff assessment under section 25, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1.

95. Upon the recommendation of the representative of Algeria the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to review, within the context of the draft programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, the amount of honorarium received by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and report to the General Assembly thereon.

Performance report on the programme budget for the
biennium 1976-1977: Joint UNCTAD/GATT International
Trade Centre

96. At its 61st meeting the Fifth Committee took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977: Joint UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre.

/...

First performance report on the programme budget
for the biennium 1976-1977

97. In his report on this subitem (A/C.5/31/37 and Corr.1 and Add.1), the Secretary-General requested that the total appropriations approved by the General Assembly for the current biennium in its resolution 3539 A (XXX) be increased by \$13,300,500 from a total of \$745,813,800 to \$759,114,300. Of the additional amount of \$7,987,300 related to the net combined effects of inflation and variations in the rates of currency exchange, \$2,456,200 to decisions of policy-making organs since the original appropriations were approved, and \$2,857,000 to the net effect of other changes proposed by the Secretary-General. Also proposed was a reduction in the estimates of income by \$282,800 from a total of \$118,292,300 to \$118,009,500. On this basis the net revised requirements amounted to \$641,104,800.

98. In its related report (A/31/8/Add.25), the Advisory Committee recommended that the additional appropriation proposed by the Secretary-General be reduced by \$2,130,900 from \$13,300,500 to \$11,169,600, but that his revised estimates of income be accepted. Of these additional appropriations, \$7,987,300 related to the effects of inflation and the rates of exchange as requested by the Secretary-General and \$3,182,300 to the other factors dealt with in his report. Accordingly, the Committee proposed total revised appropriations in an amount of \$756,983,400 and revised estimates of income in an amount of \$118,009,500. This represented an increase in total net requirements by \$11,452,400 from \$627,521,500 to \$638,973,900.

99. The revised appropriations and estimates of income recommended by the Advisory Committee were approved by the Fifth Committee at its 61st meeting by a vote of 46 in favour, 12 against and 12 abstentions.

Postponement of consideration of some subjects
under agenda item 92

100. At its 57th meeting, on 20 December 1976, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the following subitems under this agenda item to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly:

- (a) Comprehensive study of the question of honoraria.
- (b) Services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources.
- (c) Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat.
- (d) General procedures and administrative arrangements governing the United Nations Habitat Settlement Foundation.
- (e) Revision of the financial regulations of the United Nations.
- (f) Establishment of an information service unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- (g) Implications of extending pension fund coverage to certain former staff members for services with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) during the period 1950 through 1960.
- (h) Technical innovations in the production of publications and documentation of the United Nations.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Emoluments of the members of the International Court of Justice

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision in resolution 3537 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 to fix the annual salary of the members of the International Court of Justice at \$US 50,000 with effect from 1 January 1976,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General ___/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, ___/

1. Decides that the annual salaries of members of the International Court of Justice shall next be reviewed at its thirty-fifth session and thereafter normally every five years;

2. Decides further, with effect from 1 January 1977, that in between such periodic reviews, the members of the International Court of Justice may receive, in addition to their annual salary, as defined in Article 32, paragraphs 1 and 5, of the Statute of the Court, also an interim cost-of-living supplement which shall not be deemed to form part of the said salary and the amount of which shall be governed by the provisions set out in paragraph 17 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

3. Decides that the allowances and compensation provided for in Article 32, paragraphs 2 to 4, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and the retirement pensions given to members of the Court shall be reviewed concurrently with the periodic review of their annual salary, and that the system of interim adjustments shall not apply to them.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the use of experts and

___/ A/C.5/31/13.

___/ A/31/8/Add.3.

/...

consultants in the United Nations ___/ and of the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; ___/

Reaffirms the decisions taken at its 2325th plenary meeting on 18 December 1974, and at its 2444th plenary meeting, on 17 December 1975, on the use of experts and consultants;

Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a further report on the implementation of the aforementioned decisions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Revised estimate resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board arising from the Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session, Nairobi

The Fifth Committee,

Having considered the revised estimate ___/ resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board arising from the Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session, and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon, ___/

1. Decides that the extent of the greater flexibility for UNCTAD in budgetary, financial and administrative matters to be accorded should be such as to enable UNCTAD to make the best use of its resources according to the demands made of it;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, at the earliest opportunity, to clarify the reasons for strengthening the office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; meanwhile a flexible use of UNCTAD resources may provide his office with the desired strengthening;

___/ A/C.5/31/10 and Corr.1 and A/C.5/31/10/Add.1 and Corr.1.

___/ A/C.5/31/SR.6.

___/ A/C.5/31/49.

___/ A/31/8/Add.12.