



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and  
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 112: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 105: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that less than a month ago he had had the pleasure of addressing the Fifth Committee. He had returned because of the special importance he attached to certain issues under agenda item 112, "Report of the International Civil Service Commission", and agenda item 111, "Personnel questions". The actions taken or not taken by the Fifth Committee on those issues could have serious implications for the conditions of service of the staff and, as a consequence, on their morale and the functioning not only of the United Nations Secretariat but of the secretariats of all the organizations in the common system.
2. The Committee had heard and would hear further in the days ahead the strong views of the staff representatives on the matters dealt with in the reports of ICSC and JIU. For his part, he had pledged to the Fifth Committee and to the staff his commitment to making the Secretariat more efficient and more effective. He would demand the best efforts of the staff as a means of achieving a more efficient Secretariat but, at the same time, would do all in his power to secure fair and equitable conditions of service.
3. He had requested a further meeting with the Committee to convey personally to members his concerns with regard to two broad issues, the level of remuneration of the staff and the number of posts available for promotion of staff in the General Service and related categories to the Professional category.
4. From the report of the International Civil Service Commission, the Committee was aware of the extensive reviews which had taken place in recent years regarding the level of remuneration of the Professional staff. The Noblemaire principle, which had governed the determination of Professional salaries, had been the subject of much discussion in ICSC and the Fifth Committee over the years and had survived many searching reviews, with the conclusion always being that no ready alternative existed. The appropriate application of that principle had also been the subject of intensive studies. In recent years, the Fifth Committee had reviewed the progress made by ICSC in developing a methodology for total compensation comparisons which would take into account not only the level of salaries, but also pensions and other benefits. It would seem fair to say that the process of improving the methodology so it would command the broad support of all parties concerned - Member States, administrations and staff - had not yet been completed. ICSC itself had again raised the issue of extending the methodology to include a comparison of expatriate benefits. Approximately 90 per cent of the staff in the Professional and higher categories served outside their home country, and it would seem therefore essential to include an examination of expatriate benefits in any assessment of the level of remuneration of such staff. Whether that was done in the context of the determination of the margin between United Nations remuneration and that of the comparator or as part of the total compensation studies was a matter that deserved careful consideration. In the meantime, the fact remained that there had been no revision of Professional salaries since 1975, apart from the

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(The Secretary-General)

change resulting from the past consolidations of post adjustment into the base salary scales, which had had no effect on the actual level of remuneration. The level of Professional remuneration had been extensively reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the basis of studies carried out by its subsidiary organ, CCAQ. As reflected in the report of ICSC, the executive heads had concluded, based on a number of relevant indicators, that an increase in the net salary scales of the Professional and higher categories was justified and should no longer be delayed. ICSC had been so advised.

5. ACC had reverted to the question of Professional salaries at its recent session, held in New York from 1 to 3 November 1982, in the light of contents of the report of ICSC. At the request of ACC, he wished to read out the statement adopted at that session:

"Level of remuneration of Professional staff members of the United Nations system"

"1. As indicated in paragraphs 107 and 110 of the report of the International Civil Service Commission, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination has been increasingly concerned by the continuing decline in the real value of the remuneration of the staff in the Professional and higher categories of the organizations of the common system. ACC discussed this issue in 1980 and in 1981. In July 1982, following a thorough review, the executive heads unanimously adopted a statement in which it was proposed that the net base salaries of the Professional and higher categories be increased by 5 per cent, with effect from 1 January 1983.

"2. The considerations which led the executive heads to reach the conclusion that such an increase would be fair and reasonable at the present time may be summarized as follows:

"(a) Periodic adjustments in Professional remuneration have been an integral part of the salary system in order to correct the effect of the regressive feature of the post adjustment system. From 1956, when the post adjustment system was introduced, to 1975, adjustments have taken place every four or five years. Eight years have now elapsed since the last adjustment was made in January 1975 as an interim measure;

"(b) The purchasing power of the salaries of the Professional staff has diminished at the base of the system by 5.4 per cent since 1971, the date of the last full review of the salary scales;

"(c) If the civil service salaries of the comparator country, the United States, had been adjusted to keep pace with the private-sector pay, as provided for in the Pay Comparability Act of 1970, the margin between United Nations Professional remuneration and that of the United Nations Civil Service would be at least 10 per cent lower than it is at present;

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(The Secretary-General)

"(d) The remuneration of United States civil servants serving abroad exceeds, in many countries, that of the expatriate staff of the United Nations system serving in those countries;

"(e) Also, since 1971, the real value of remuneration of national civil servants in the other countries where headquarters of organizations of the common system are located has increased by amounts ranging from 7 to 35 per cent;

"(f) The real value of Professional remuneration in other international organizations which do not belong to the common system has increased by amounts ranging from 5 to 29 per cent during the same period.

"3. Although the majority of the members of the Commission favoured an increase in salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories, the Commission as a whole was unable to reach a consensus on the quantum, with opinions ranging from 3 to 5 per cent or more, among those favouring an increase. The Commission, therefore, agreed to transmit its views for consideration and decision by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

"4. ACC is disappointed that the Commission did not make a specific recommendation on this question. In the absence of such a recommendation, and having regard to the range of the figures considered by the Commission, ACC unanimously reaffirms its recommendation that the net salaries of the Professional and higher categories of the organizations of the common system should be increased by 5 per cent, with effect from 1 January 1983. Pensionable remuneration, which has its own adjustment mechanism, should remain unchanged.

"5. The executive heads are fully aware of the financial implications of such a proposal but they are equally conscious of their responsibility to ensure that the conditions of service of their staff are such as to achieve maximum efficiency in the secretariats. After carefully weighing both considerations, ACC concluded that a salary increase of at least 5 per cent was fully justified."

6. It was his fervent wish that the Fifth Committee would consider fully and favourably the recommendation of those who had the responsibility of administering the secretariats within the United Nations common system. Their conclusion had been reached in full cognizance of all aspects of the issue, including the financial implications. In the final analysis, it was incumbent on the United Nations organizations to be good employers and that, in turn, required periodic revision of remuneration, especially when there had been a decline in the real value of the emoluments of Professional staff since the last adjustment.

7. Any recommendation to increase Professional salaries inevitably gave rise to representations regarding equitable treatment of the staff in the General Service and related categories. He was acutely aware that different principles and

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(The Secretary-General)

methodologies governed the determination of the remuneration of the various categories. Yet it would seem that greater efforts might be made to bridge some of the differences. It might, for example, be possible to introduce arrangements under which adjustments would be made on the same dates between the full review of salaries under the respective methodologies. Though he had no illusions about the difficulty of such a task, he hoped that ICSC could deal with that question in the near future. In addition, the representations made by the staff concerning differences in treatment in respect of the amount of and eligibility for other allowances and benefits should be reviewed anew.

8. Just as it was inevitable that representations should be made regarding the salaries, allowances and benefits for the various categories, the opportunities and procedures for promotion of staff to the Professional category also had a profound effect on the morale of the roughly 60 per cent of the staff which served in the General Service and related categories. In resolution 33/143, the General Assembly had decided that movement from the General Service to the Professional category should be by means of competitive methods of selection and had placed a limit of 30 per cent on the number of vacancies at the P-1 and P-2 levels to be filled in that way. Both the report of JIU and his comments thereon included information on the experience gained with competitive examinations, including the changes introduced in the format of the most recent examination. He had also requested that alternatives to the examination process be considered within the context of "competitive methods of selection" of the most qualified staff. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, competitive examinations were also used for outside recruitment at the P-1 and P-2 levels.

9. He wished to request the Fifth Committee to consider increasing the number of posts allocated for internal promotion through competitive methods of selection from 30 per cent to at least 50 per cent of vacancies at the P-1 and P-2 levels. That would be fair and reasonable, since it was difficult to espouse a commitment to a viable career development programme on the one hand, and then to place a low limit on the opportunities for promotion to the Professional category of staff in the General Service and related categories with proven abilities and valuable experience of the work of the Organization.

The meeting was suspended at 11 a.m. and resumed at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (continued)  
(A/37/30; A/C.5/37/29)

10. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a communication from the President of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA) requesting that, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 (b) of General Assembly resolution 35/213, a representative of FICSA should be invited to introduce the document it had submitted to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General under agenda item 112. Under that resolution, the General Assembly had decided that the Fifth Committee might, if considered desirable, invite a designated representative of

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(The Chairman)

FICSA to make an oral presentation to the Committee at the beginning of its consideration of the agenda item entitled "Report of the International Civil Service Commission".

11. He had also received a letter dated 20 October 1982 from a staff organization known as the "Co-ordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System", also requesting authorization to address the Fifth Committee under agenda item 112 and indicating that the organization represented the staff at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United Nations Office at Geneva, ESCAP (Bangkok), ECWA (Baghdad) and ECA (Addis Ababa). It was further pointed out in the letter that the International Civil Service Commission had at its last session decided to allow the Co-ordinating Committee to participate in its meetings.

12. The Secretary-General had met with him the preceding day to discuss certain issues currently before the Fifth Committee and had inquired about the possibility of granting permission to the Co-ordinating Committee to address the Fifth Committee, indicating his own support for the request. The Secretary-General had referred in that connection to the fact that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), which had recently met in New York, had received a similar request and, with the Secretary-General's support, had agreed to hear a representative of the Co-ordinating Committee.

13. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that, as the Chairman had observed, under resolution 35/213, the Fifth Committee could at its discretion invite a designated representative of FICSA to introduce the document submitted by that organization to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General under the item on the report of ICSC. It would be useful to the Committee and a courtesy to FICSA to authorize it to make a brief oral presentation of its report. He knew that a number of delegations were not totally happy with the tenor of the statement made the previous week, by the representative of the staff of the United Nations Secretariat under agenda item 111, but that was not a valid reason for not hearing the designated representative of FICSA. In fact, it would be invidious if, having heard a representative of the United Nations Secretariat staff, the Fifth Committee refused to give a hearing to FICSA. He therefore proposed that the Fifth Committee should invite a designated representative of FICSA to make a presentation as envisaged in resolution 35/213.

14. Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan) said that, as he understood it, the Co-ordinating Committee represented some 20,000 staff members who had withdrawn from the unions and associations which had submitted the report in document A/C.5/37/24. His delegation favoured allowing a single recognized representative of the Co-ordinating Committee to address the Fifth Committee under agenda item 112 because it was in the interests of the Fifth Committee and the Organization as a whole to hear the views of a body representing such a large number of staff. His delegation intended in due time to propose changes in the arrangements governing the access of staff to the Fifth Committee so that the Co-ordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System could be regularly given a hearing.

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15. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) recalled that under resolution 35/213 access of the staff to the Fifth Committee was contingent on there being a serious need for the Committee to hear an oral presentation by the staff. The Committee had heard an oral presentation the preceding week by a representative of the Secretariat staff who had been extraordinarily insulting to Member States. In the light of that experience, he was disinclined to grant any staff representative a hearing under agenda item 112, since the staff seemed not to understand how to make proper use of the opportunity of addressing the Committee. He had serious doubts, moreover, about the Committee's becoming involved in conflicts between competing groups of staff.

16. Mr. M'TESA (Zambia) asked how many staff unions and associations there were in the United Nations, how many were recognized by the Administration and what criteria were used for that purpose.

17. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that his delegation had been among those which at the thirty-fifth session had enthusiastically supported the granting of access to a single recognized representative of the staff. While the statement by the representative of the staff of the United Nations Secretariat at the 26th meeting had been extremely discourteous, that was most likely, an isolated incident, the reflection of an outmoded brand of trade unionism. Member States had applied the resolution concerning staff access with great flexibility, by allowing recognized staff representatives to make oral presentations at the very outset of its consideration of the items in question. The staff should therefore appreciate the sensitivity shown by the Committee and engage in genuine dialogue. His delegation favoured granting a hearing to other representatives of the staff but they must be aware that they were being accorded a very rare privilege.

18. Mr. ENODIEN (Nigeria) agreed that the language used by the staff representative who had spoken at the 26th meeting had been most indecorous. However, the Committee should not deprive itself of one of the most essential tools in any decision-making process, namely, information. Despite the unfortunate experience of the preceding week, his delegation felt that the Fifth Committee would stand to lose nothing by allowing the Co-ordinating Committee to make an oral presentation.

19. Miss CASTILLO (Dominican Republic) asked whether answers could be provided at the current meeting to the questions asked by the representative of Zambia so that the Committee would have the necessary background to take a proper decision.

20. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) endorsed the proposal made by the representative of New Zealand. The unfortunate incident of the preceding week had occurred during the discussion of a different agenda item. In the spirit of resolution 35/213, FICSA was entitled to make an oral presentation of the document it had submitted. The Committee could take a decision on the request from the other organization after deciding whether to issue an invitation to FICSA.

21. Mr. BASHARAT ALI (Bangladesh) expressed concern at the possible proliferation of staff unions and the problems which that would create for the work of the

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(Mr. Basharat Ali, Bangladesh)

Committee. He noted that the Co-ordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System had been invited to present its views to ICSC and the ACC, and endorsed the request by the representative of Zambia for information on the various unions in the United Nations and the criteria for recognizing them.

22. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that despite the disrespectful tone adopted by a representative of the Secretariat staff at a previous meeting, his delegation supported the right of staff representatives to address the Committee. The information requested by the representative of Zambia would be of value to members in deciding the matter. His own delegation had understood that only one representative of the staff would address the Committee, but equality demanded that the representatives of all recognized groups should enjoy the same right.

23. Mr. JONES (Sierra Leone) said that the Committee should ascertain how many staff associations were recognized by the United Nations. His delegation supported the right of the staff to make oral presentations.

24. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that under the Staff Regulations a Staff Council had been established for the purpose of ensuring continuous contact between the staff and the Secretary-General. That Council thus constituted the machinery approved by the United Nations. In addition, in accordance with the generally recognized principle of the freedom of association, there were various staff associations or unions. Separate entities existed in New York, Vienna and Nairobi, and in Geneva, where there were at least three separate groupings, and at ECA, ECLA, ESCAP and ECWA, in addition to which there was an association for staff in the field.

25. With regard to the criteria for recognition, account had to be taken of the forum concerned. At Headquarters, relations between the Secretary-General and the staff were institutionalized in the Staff Council, although other forums had different criteria. Indeed, the question of criteria for recognition was somewhat theoretical, since in practice arrangements were determined by the need to be aware of staff views. ICSC granted access to FICSA on matters of concern to the staff of the United Nations system, but at its last session it had also granted access to the Co-ordinating Committee, which was now seeking access to the Fifth Committee. The decision by ICSC to grant access to the Co-ordinating Committee was an interim decision, and did not represent a formal commitment that access would be continued.

26. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was not a staff/management body, but at its November 1982 session it had received a request for access from the Co-ordinating Committee, which had been granted. Although ACC had previously heard a representative of FICSA, it had decided to invite a representative of the Co-ordinating Committee to report to it in view of the large number of staff which that organization represented. The criteria applied for recognition were thus pragmatic.

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27. Mr. M'TESA (Zambia) said that his delegation had no desire to deny access to representatives of other staff organizations. In fact, it was prepared to hear representatives of any staff organization if that would assist the Committee in taking decisions on personnel matters. His delegation thus had no objection to the request made by the Co-ordinating Committee.
28. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that the Committee had granted access to a representative of FICSA since 1980, and that it had recently heard a presentation, couched in intemperate language, by the representative of another staff organization. The Co-ordinating Committee seemed to be a splinter group that had broken off from FICSA. The representative of the Co-ordinating Committee would be able to clarify the reasons for the split and should be allowed to make a statement.
29. It was important for staff representatives to be sensitive to the spirit of the General Assembly resolution whereby they had been granted access and to bear in mind the need for civility and due respect. Unless a proper attitude was displayed, the members of the Committee might need to reconsider the entire question of access.
30. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said his delegation supported the principle of staff access provided that the ground rules were strictly adhered to. While he concurred in the views of the representative of Kenya on the use of appropriate language in the Committee, he doubted whether standards could be enforced in that regard. The plethora of staff organizations was bewildering, and perhaps thought might be given to the establishment of a staff union representing all employees.
31. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) suggested that the Committee should hear the representative of FICSA, to whom access had already been granted, without further delay, and then consider the question of access for the representative of the Co-ordinating Committee.
32. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United Nations was an international organization in which the interests of the staff were represented by the Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/213, staff representatives had an opportunity to present their views orally. Delegations should bear in mind that ICSC had received detailed comments from staff representatives and that there was a document setting out the position of the staff on personnel matters.
33. The Soviet delegation had reservations about inviting staff representatives to address the Committee. If such an invitation was in fact extended, any presentation should be made strictly in accordance with the provisions of resolution 35/213.
34. Mr. DITZ (Austria) said that his delegation would welcome information on which organizations in the common system were represented by the Co-ordinating Committee.
35. The CHAIRMAN said that the Co-ordinating Committee represented the United Nations Secretariat staff in New York and Geneva, and at ESCAP, ECWA and ECA.

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(The Chairman)

36. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/213, the representative of New Zealand had proposed that the Fifth Committee should invite the representative of FICSA to make an oral presentation of the Federation's comments in document A/C.5/37/29. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt that proposal.

37. It was so decided.

38. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Steward Goffman (Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations) took the place reserved for her.

39. Mrs. STEWARD-GOFFMAN (Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations), introducing document A/C.5/37/29, said that FICSA was a world-wide federation of staff unions and associations of the United Nations system, with 26 full members and a large number of other staff groupings, including the World Bank group and local federations of United Nations staff associations in the field, with consultative or observer status. She would be ready to supply a list of the Federation's membership by number of staff members and duty station if so requested.

40. The Federation regarded its participation in the discussion of the ICSC report as important for two reasons. First, it was explicitly entrusted under the ICSC statute with the responsibility of representing staff on matters of common interest to the staff as a whole. Second, since the work of ICSC, which involved the participation of staff and management from many different organizations, was reported on to the legislative body of just one organization - the United Nations - it was important for the views of the other parties concerned to be presented at the same time.

41. The Federation was concerned about the lack of a career structure in the United Nations system. If the many pious words spoken on the subject had been translated into action, the staff would be fortunate indeed. But career development policy was all too often one of "sink or swim". It was recognized that reforms were needed. The problems in the way of reform seemed to lie within the administrative circles, and were possibly based on a misunderstanding of Member States' attitudes. When proposals for improving career structure were put forward, the standard response from senior administrators was either "We have no money" or "The Member States would never agree". The Federation felt that economizing on career development was an expensive luxury and urged that existing resources should be rechannelled so that a career structure could be established. As to the second response, she found it hard to believe that Member States would not listen if cogent proposals for such a structure were put forward convincingly. The staff of the United Nations system were aware of their responsibilities to Member States, but they felt that they had a right to a satisfactory career and should not have to elbow their way through a political scrum in order to win promotion.

42. The Federation welcomed the recommendation by the International Civil Service Commission that, subject to satisfactory performance, staff should be given every reasonable consideration for a career appointment after five years of service. It

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(Mrs. Steward-Goffman)

had long opposed the dishonest stratagem of keeping staff on short-term contracts for many years, and it urged Member States to discourage the practice throughout the United Nations system.

43. The Federation's main reservations concerning the ICSC request had to do with the measures proposed to deal with the consequences of imposing a rigid classification scheme in a career development vacuum. Its own recommendation was for greater flexibility. It rejected the concept of linked grades advanced by JIU for the reasons stated in paragraph 23 of its written comments (A/C.5/37/29).

44. The Federation's views on retirement policy were set out in paragraphs 32 to 35 of its written comments. The Federation was aware that the proposal to raise the mandatory age of retirement was a major element in a package proposed by the Joint Staff Pension Board as a first step to overcoming the actuarial deficit of the Pension Fund. The Pension Board's proposals would be discussed under an agenda item allowing of no staff participation. She therefore thought it necessary to draw attention to the Federation's views now, so that account could be taken at the appropriate time of the consequences for personnel policy of the Pension Board's proposals.

45. Concerning the physical protection of staff members, she said that the continued incarceration and disappearance of many staff members had left a scar on the psyche of the international civil service. The Federation urged the Member States concerned to comply with General Assembly resolution 36/232. The institution which had given birth to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights owed it to itself and the world to set an example in such matters. The political integrity of the secretariats was increasingly at risk. If political interference persisted, there would soon be no activity in the United Nations system that was not politicized, and that would be no more acceptable to Member States than it was to the staff.

46. The general methodology for the establishment of General Service salaries was a potentially serious source of friction, since ICSC apparently intended to continue to play a leading role in the determination of General Service salaries even after guidelines had been drawn up. The Federation urged ICSC to show a flexible attitude and sensitivity to local conditions.

47. On the subject of Professional remuneration, she was sure that the Fifth Committee would attach due weight to the statement just made by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. The staff had been remarkably patient in waiting for an increase in remuneration, but their eyes were now turned on the Fifth Committee in the hope that their patience would be rewarded. The Federation urged a return to regular salary reviews in the future. As for the amount of the increase to be granted, the Federation's views diverged from those of ACC. The Federation regretted the failure of ICSC, as the United Nations system's major technical adviser, to produce a specific recommendation on the subject. The membership of the Federation collectively and unanimously urged a 10-per-cent increment in net salaries across the board, effective as of 1 January 1982, if only as a token of Member States' recognition for the hard-working, dedicated staff of the system.

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(Mrs. Steward-Goffman)

48. Paragraphs 57 to 64 of the Federation's paper spelled out FICSA's position regarding allowances. The Federation urged positive consideration for the proposal to increase the children's allowance for Professional staff, without prejudice to a longer-term approach to the question that would establish equitable treatment for all staff. It was important also to work towards the equalization of the education grant, a subject which had not been fully explored by ICSC. Tension was bound to result when two staff members working side by side received different treatment for their children. The Federation also looked forward to a review of the level of the education grant.

49. The Federation was glad that ICSC was finally coming to grips with the problems faced by field staff. High priority should be given to the problems of General Service staff in the field, whose contribution to development assistance efforts often went unnoticed and unrewarded. The Federation would be actively participating in the ICSC study on field conditions, the major elements of which were expected to be completed in 1983.

50. The status of women in the international civil service remained lowly. She had noted a number of sympathetic statements on the subject during the Fifth Committee's discussions so far, and hoped that the sympathy would be turned into action by Member States, in the form of nominations of qualified women candidates. The international civil service itself should also promote the role of women in the various secretariats and some progress had been made; but results, overall, had been marginal. An increase in the proportion of women at the D-1 level and above from 1.3 per cent to 1.4 per cent was scant progress.

51. As for staff participation in decision-making, a study prepared for the General Assembly's consideration at its thirty-fifth session had concluded that there was already an elaborate system for consultations with staff representatives. The key point, however, was not how elaborate the system was, nor how often staff were consulted, but whether their views were heeded. The Federation had long been urging a reform of the staff consultation process, to bring practice in the United Nations system into line with ILO regulations. The resistance to change which staff were encountering in some organizations and in discussions at the inter-agency level was giving rise to discontent among the staff which could not be ignored indefinitely.

52. The Federation was ready to give written replies to any questions which delegations wished to raise during the Fifth Committee's discussions.

53. Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan) proposed that the Fifth Committee should issue an invitation to a representative of the Co-ordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System to make a statement on agenda item 112. He also announced that he would shortly propose an amendment to General Assembly resolution 35/213 in order to provide for such access for the Co-ordinating Committee in the future.

54. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) asked whether it was in order for the Fifth Committee to invite another representative of the staff to address the Committee on the item before the provisions of resolution 35/213 had been formally amended.

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55. The CHAIRMAN said that he wished to consult the members of the Committee on that point. It was certainly possible that, if the Fifth Committee decided to make an exception to resolution 35/213, its decision would have to be endorsed by the plenary Assembly.

56. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that it appeared to his delegation that the intention of resolution 35/213 had been very specific. Accordingly, before any member of the Co-ordinating Committee could appear before the Fifth Committee, the original resolution would have to be formally amended.

57. Mr. M'TESA (Zambia) agreed with the Canadian representative, and said that he would like to see the Jordanian proposal in writing and have an opportunity to discuss it with the other members of his delegation before the Fifth Committee took any decision on the matter.

58. Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan) said that, although his delegation believed that the Fifth Committee was empowered to settle the question itself, he would agree to submit a formal amendment as soon as possible so that the Co-ordinating Committee could address the Fifth Committee.

59. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) pointed out that resolution 35/213 provided for staff representatives to be given access to the Fifth Committee to make an oral presentation of documents they had already submitted to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General. If resolution 35/213 was to be amended, it would be better to follow the same procedure and require the Co-ordinating Committee to submit a document setting out its views, which a representative could then introduce orally before the Fifth Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 105: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)  
(A/C.5/37/15 and Corr.1, A/C.5/37/30; A/C.5/37/L.22)

(a) REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

60. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) introduced the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/37/L.22 on behalf of the sponsors. It was his personal view that, if the statement adopted by ACC on 3 November 1982 (A/C.5/37/30) had become available earlier, it might have made an impact on the formulation of the draft resolution. In the light of that statement, operative paragraphs 2 and 4 could well be considered by the governing bodies of other agencies in the United Nations system. It would also do no harm, in his view, to ask Member States to pay not only their assessed contributions but also their voluntary contributions early each year.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.