



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

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

CONTENTS

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

AGENDA ITEM 114: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 113: UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM

(a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD

AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

Report of the Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/37/L.38 concerning agenda item 25 (The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security)

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/37/L.3 concerning agenda item 76 (Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination)

/...

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 6 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/37/SR.45  
2 December 1982  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/37/L.4, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 76 (Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25 concerning agenda item 71 (i) (Development and international economic co-operation)

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

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

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) replied to a question put to him concerning participation by the Committee on Conferences in the adoption of proposals relating to the pattern of conferences. He said that the attention of the Chairmen of the Main Committees had been drawn to the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A, by which "all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly shall be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications are being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly".
2. Replying to a question put to him on the issuing of the report on the identification of activities that had been completed or were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, he said that that report would soon be distributed.
3. The representative of the United States had observed that rule 154 of the rules of procedure, which stipulated that "the Secretary-General shall keep all committees informed of the detailed estimated cost of all resolutions which have been recommended by the committees for approval by the General Assembly", was frequently infringed, and had asked whether it would not be possible for the statements of financial implications of the proposals made by the committees to appear in the Journal of the United Nations. It should be borne in mind that the Journal was an organ of information whose primary purpose was to announce the programme of meetings and give a brief summary of the past day's proceedings. It might, however, be possible to request the secretary of the committee in question to inform the members, at the end of each meeting, of the total amount of the financial implications of the draft resolutions or decisions adopted. A summary statement of the financial implications of the draft resolutions of the other committees could be prepared at the end of each week.

#### AGENDA ITEM 114: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- (a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/37/534 and Corr.1 and 597; A/C.5/37/L.26)

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, as indicated in the table of page 5 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/37/597), the Secretary-General had requested for 1982-1983 an appropriation of \$34,373,000 gross (\$33,968,000 net) for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), as compared with a revised apportionment of \$31,948,000 for 1981-1982. The difference, amounting to \$2,425,000, was due mainly to inflation. The Advisory Committee recommended, in paragraph 12 of its report (A/37/597), that the amount requested by the Secretary-General should be approved, provided the Security Council renewed the mandate of UNDOF.

/...

5. Mr. MACARTNEY (Canada), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/37/L.26, which now included Ghana, explained that the draft was based on resolutions 35/45 A and 36/66 A, concerning the same subject. The responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council were highlighted in the draft, however, as was the fact that the developed countries were in a position to pay larger contributions than the developing countries.

6. The sponsors of the draft supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the amount requested by the Secretary-General should be approved and the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of its report (A/37/597) that the Secretary-General should be permitted the usual flexibility to transfer credits between items of expenditure, should that be necessary, in the interest of good management and efficiency.

7. Peace-keeping operations were among the most important activities carried out by the Organization, and all Member States, particularly members of the Security Council, had a responsibility to support UNDOF. The sponsors were therefore increasingly concerned about the refusal of some Member States to pay all or part of their contributions for such operations. No voluntary contributions had been received, despite the appeal made by the General Assembly. As a result, the Organization had been unable to reimburse the troop contributors. That was particularly unfair to the developing countries, and was likely to lessen their ability to participate in peace-keeping operations if they wished to do so.

8. That gloomy picture was, however, relieved by the fact that the People's Republic of China had joined those Member States paying contributions for UNDOF, an example which other countries would do well to follow.

AGENDA ITEM 113: UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM

(a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD (A/37/9)

9. Mr. ALI (Chairman of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board), introducing the Board's annual report (A/37/9), said that it had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/118 B, in which the Assembly had requested the Board to undertake a comprehensive analysis of all possible measures to improve the actuarial balance of the Fund, in co-operation with the International Civil Service Commission where necessary, and taking into account all the views expressed in the Fifth Committee. The Board had also taken account of the views of the Standing Committee, the Committee of Actuaries and the Consulting Actuary.

10. The Fund's deficit was due not to excessive benefits but to inflation and the low rate of return on investments.

11. In considering the steps to be taken, the Board had not considered it opportune to recommend the application of article 27 of its Regulations, which provided that if the assets of the Fund might not be sufficient to meet its liabilities, each member organization should pay into the Fund the sum necessary to make good the deficiency. The only ways of ending the deficit were to increase contributions, reduce benefits or alter personnel policy. The Board had decided to recommend the adoption of seven measures, to be applied simultaneously, the burden being borne equally by pensioners, participants, Member organizations and Member States.

(Mr. Ali)

12. He would refer briefly to the measures, beginning with the recommendation to raise the age of mandatory separation to 62 years. The International Civil Service Commission had been unable to reach agreement on that point, or to express an opinion on the actuarial benefits of the proposal. The Board's recommendation, as formulated in the draft resolution before the General Assembly (A/37/9, annex XI) was that the statutory age of separation should be changed in all the member organizations of the Fund and that, in the meantime, the executive heads should be granted discretionary authority to extend service to at least age 62, such discretion to be exercised with the utmost flexibility and liberality. In other words, the General Assembly would not have to change the mandatory age of separation immediately, but would merely recognize that such a step had to be given serious consideration, and that a decision would be taken once ICSC had reported fully on the matter.

13. In that connection, he said that the Board and ICSC should continue to work together on problems of mutual interest, but that work by one should not serve as an obstacle to progress by the other in a different area.

14. The other measures proposed were: to reduce the length of service required for affiliation to the Fund to six months instead of one year; to reduce the rate of accumulation for new entrants to 1.5 per cent for the first five years, 1.75 per cent for the next five years and 2 per cent after that; to raise the rate of interest for commuted benefits from 4 per cent to 4.5 per cent, which would reduce the amount of the lump sum; to modify the system of adjusting pensions so that the threshold became 5 per cent instead of 3 per cent and adjustments were made twice a year instead of four times as currently; to end the practice of refunding contributions to member organizations when a participant had less than five years of service; and, lastly, to reserve the right to repay benefits and restore periods of prior service to officials who had left after less than five years of contributory service.

15. All those measures had been arrived at after a very long period of intensive study and it was difficult for the Board to see what other solutions it could have proposed. The Board had, moreover, adopted them unanimously and it hoped that the Fifth Committee would be able to do the same. The actuarial situation of the Fund was a serious problem and any postponement would only make matters worse.

16. The Board was also presenting other proposals whose actuarial impact was difficult to determine. One of them was designed to maintain the Fund as an "open" one, which relied on the steady influx of qualified new entrants and on the elimination of artificial barriers, such as the exclusion or arbitrary classification of certain groups of staff. Thus, officials who devoted as much time as staff members to the organizations they served should be able to participate in the Fund. There was a proposal to add an article B to that effect to the Regulations.

17. Following similar considerations, the Board proposed that the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization should be admitted to membership in the Fund. It met the requirements laid down in article 3 of the Regulations and had also submitted proof that it followed the United Nations common system.

/...

(Mr. Ali)

18. The Board again recommended that the Emergency Fund, which had proved its usefulness in many situations of hardship, should be maintained at its current level.

19. In conclusion, he announced that Mr. Liveran, the Secretary of the Board, had retired and that the Board had elected in his place Mr. Mango, who was currently Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

Report of the Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas (A/37/44)

20. Mr. THOMAS (Chairman of the Committee of Governmental Experts to Evaluate the Present Structure of the Secretariat in the Administrative, Finance and Personnel Areas), introducing the report of the Committee of Experts (A/37/44), said that, in its interim report to the thirty-sixth session (A/36/44 and Corr.1), the Committee of Experts had drawn attention to the ambiguity of its mandate and to the unclear position of the personnel function in the areas that it was supposed to study. In resolution 36/238, the General Assembly had approved the directional approaches suggested by the Committee. In 1982, therefore, the Committee had had a clearer focus of what it should pursue. Moreover, the appointment of a new Secretary-General, with a stated interest in superintending closely the management and administrative functions of the Secretariat, had provided the Committee's deliberations with an additional perspective.

21. The Committee's considerations had been based on three fundamental tenets: the General Assembly's competence to determine the structure of the Secretariat; the administrative responsibility that devolved upon the Secretary-General as the Organization's chief administrative officer; and the role of the Committee of Experts from the point of view of its substantive mandate. The Committee had considered that it should pursue its mandate in full recognition of, and not in contradistinction to, the administrative responsibility of the Secretary-General. That perception was reflected in the body of the report and its conclusions.

22. The Committee had also considered that it should support the Secretary-General in his intention to oversee the administrative functions of the Secretariat. It had noted the views presented by the Secretary-General in the note reproduced as annex I of the report (A/37/44) and had agreed to consider them in conjunction with the issues before it.

23. After drawing attention to paragraphs 16 to 36 of the report of the Committee of Experts, on its substantive work, and 37 to 39, summarizing its conclusions, he said that the Committee had considered that the issues identified in its interim report formed a useful framework for a thorough review and evaluation of the current structure of the Secretariat in the administrative, finance and personnel areas, and that the contents of the Secretary-General's note were relevant to its deliberations. He noted that the Committee offered no recommendations on possible alternative structures or modifications of the existing structures.

/...

(Mr. Thomas)

24. It was clearly possible, nevertheless, to create alternative structures, depending on different concepts of management. The Secretary-General had stated his conviction that the current structures were best suited to his management perspectives. The Committee had not therefore suggested any change at that level. At the political level, however, the General Assembly might wish to decide otherwise. The Committee's conclusion had been, therefore, that it recognized the administrative responsibility of the Secretary-General in developing the structures he judged best, but reasserted the political jurisdiction of the General Assembly, which might from time to time decide to adopt different structures.

25. The Secretary-General had also indicated his intention to examine the implications of the wider administrative questions raised in the Committee's report. The Committee had suggested a number of areas in which administrative improvement and possibly more rational structuring should be considered. Those areas related to the personnel function (paras. 20 to 22), the Administrative Management Service and the Internal Audit Division in relation to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, management effectiveness in the Organization (para. 34), and, lastly, responsibility for the programme planning and budgeting system (para. 31).

26. The last question had engaged the Committee's attention for a considerable time. It had noted the Secretary-General's efforts to establish a co-ordinating mechanism for that function, the integration of which it believed required a single responsibility for the entire system of programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting. It also felt that the evaluation of programme implementation required an independent mechanism of an institutional nature.

27. Although the Committee had not recommended any changes, the suggestions in its report, if considered in depth, would provide the Secretary-General and the General Assembly with useful insights as to possible options for change or refinement of the existing structures. The changes desired could be undertaken on the initiative of either the Secretary-General or the General Assembly, as stated by the Committee in paragraph 37 of its report.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/37/L.38 concerning agenda item 25 (The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security) (A/C.5/37/57)

28. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing orally the Advisory Committee's comments on the statement of administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/37/L.38 (The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security) submitted by the Secretary-General, noted that, for 1982, the Advisory Committee had recommended a total appropriation of \$92,200 for that activity.

29. The Secretary-General currently estimated at \$118,500 the expenditure that would be entailed in 1983 by the implementation of the draft resolution. Of that sum, \$85,000 would be earmarked for the chartering of a small aircraft.

(Mr. Mselle)

30. The Advisory Committee had inquired as to the way in which the previous appropriation had been spent, and had learned that, by 30 August 1982, a sum of \$68,450 had been obligated, mainly for travel and the chartering of a small aircraft. The unused balance therefore amounted to \$24,000.

31. The Advisory Committee had accordingly decided to recommend that the Fifth Committee should approve for 1983 an appropriation of \$85,000, the cost of chartering a small aircraft. Should the Fifth Committee approve that recommendation, the Secretary-General would therefore have a total sum of \$109,000 at his disposal in 1983.

32. Mr. HAKIM (Afghanistan) recalled that his country's representative had opposed the adoption of draft resolution A/37/L.38 in the plenary Assembly. Consequently, if the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution were put to the vote, his delegation would vote against them.

33. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would have at his disposal \$109,000 to continue his efforts to bring about a solution in accordance with the provisions of draft resolution A/37/L.38.

34. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/37/L.38, an additional appropriation of \$85,000 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

35. It was so decided.

36. Mr. HOANG HAI (Viet Nam), explaining his delegation's position, said that the inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly of an item relating to the so-called situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security constituted flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and was at variance with the provisions of the Charter. Consequently, if the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/37/L.38 had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/37/L.3 concerning agenda item 76 (Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) (A/37/7/Add.8; A/C.5/37/31)

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/37/L.4, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 76 (Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) (continued) (A/37/7/Add.8; A/C.5/37/32 and Add.1)

37. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had presented that Committee's report at the 29th meeting of the Fifth Committee and that during the discussion the representative of Canada had formally proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should authorize additional expenditures as set out in annex II to the Advisory Committee's report (A/37/7/Add.8) and that no exception should be made to the provisions of resolution 2609 (XXIV).



38. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) requested that, in view of the importance of the item under consideration, the draft decision proposed orally by the representative of Canada should be issued as an official document.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that he would accede to the request of the representative of the Philippines. The consideration of the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/C.3/37/L.3 and L.4 would, therefore, be deferred until a later stage.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25 concerning agenda item 71 (i) (Development and international economic co-operation: environment) (A/C.5/37/52)

40. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing orally the report of the Advisory Committee, noted that draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25 would have the Secretariat prepare a factual study on the problem of remnants of war. In view of the specialized nature of the work involved, the Secretary-General considered that it would be necessary to recruit outside experts to assist him in drafting the report. Since it was impossible at the current stage to foresee the total expenditure involved, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to commit the necessary funds out of those already appropriated in the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Should additional appropriations prove necessary, the Secretary-General would indicate his requirements in the second report on the implementation of the budget. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, there would be no need at the current stage to make an additional appropriation.

41. Mr. DARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), supported by Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan), noted that the Secretary-General had informed the Second Committee during its consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25 that, in order to carry out the study requested, he would need to recruit outside experts to compile the relevant technical information. The Second Committee had therefore recommended that the necessary appropriations should be made available to the Secretary-General.

42. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the Second Committee was not empowered to recommend additional appropriations; it could recommend only programmes and projects. It was for the Fifth Committee to take a decision on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions adopted by the other Committees, on the basis of the recommendations of the competent expert body, namely, the Advisory Committee. In the case in question, the Advisory Committee's recommendation did not stand in the way of the preparation of the study envisaged in draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25. That study could in fact be carried out without any additional appropriations being required at the current stage.

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25, it should authorize the Secretary-General to incur the necessary expenses from within the resources already approved under the

(The Chairman)

programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983; if additional appropriations should prove necessary, the Secretary-General should report thereon in the second budget performance report. Accordingly, no additional appropriation would be required at the current stage.

44. It was so decided.

45. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) and Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that the study requested could be carried out by the staff of the Secretariat without the assistance of outside consultants. Accordingly, if the financial and administrative implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.25 had been put to a vote, their delegations would have voted against.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/37/3 (Part II), Chap. VI, Sect. C, A/37/6, A/37/7, A/37/38, A/37/154 and Corr.1, A/37/206 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/37/207, A/37/460; A/C.5/37/25 and A/C.5/37/53; E/1982/INF/12, Decision 1982/173)

46. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that he agreed with most of the conclusions and recommendations formulated by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-second session (A/37/38, chap. VIII), in particular those relating to the special review of the work programme of the United Nations and programme performance for the biennium 1980-1981. In that connection, he wondered whether the arrangements for the functioning of the central programme monitoring unit established at the request of the General Assembly would enable it to perform its task with complete objectivity and independence and effectively.

47. The recommendation contained in paragraph 299 (a) of the report of CPC relating to the procedure for review of the programme budget and the documentation which would be made available to CPC for that purpose was especially important. Regulation 4.4 of the revised draft regulations governing programme planning (A/37/206) contained indications on that subject, as did recommendation No. 4 of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/37/460), which his delegation endorsed.

48. Noting that the major shortcomings of the medium-term plan were identified in paragraphs 51 to 230 of the CPC report (A/37/38) and in chapter I of the JIU report (A/37/460), he said that the plan would have had greater rigour, clarity, coherence and concision if the methodology laid down in General Assembly resolutions 34/224 and 36/228 had been applied and if each subprogramme had been subjected to close scrutiny in the context of the mandates of the deliberative bodies, instead of merely providing a description of them. For each subprogramme it would have been necessary to identify the problems, set the medium-term objectives, define the functions which would make it possible to obtain those objectives and to single out a few specific activities.

49. Endorsing the criticisms made by JIU and CPC (A/37/38, para. 57) relating to the introduction to the plan, he recalled that the General Assembly had intended that the introduction should, among other things, be forward-looking, propose objectives which reflected the concerns of Member States and outline strategies around which specific programmes of activities could be designed.

/...

(Mr. Tommo Monthe, United  
Republic of Cameroon)

50. His delegation would like to know the reasons why the Advisory Committee was recommending that financial data and staffing tables should no longer be included in the medium-term plan, reversing the position it had taken in paragraph 9 of document A/33/345. As could be seen from both the ACC reports giving the allocation of resources among the various programmes and the tables contained in the current plan, the means provided by Member States were frequently not commensurate with the expectations stated for the programmes or the objectives which States had jointly set, a situation which they should be made aware of.

51. It was to be hoped that the rules that would be adopted at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly would help to improve planning in the United Nations. With a few changes, the regulations proposed by the Joint Inspection Unit to replace regulations 6.1 and 6.2 of the draft regulations would give evaluation activities their proper place in the planning cycle. He would like to hear the Secretary-General's views on those recommendations and his observations on recommendation No. 2. If the latter could not be implemented, CPC would have to review once again the regulations proposed by JIU in order to provide a sound basis for a set of rules to supplement rule 3.6 of the draft rules. He endorsed recommendations Nos. 3, 4 and 5 of JIU but suggested that the text proposed in paragraph 93 of the JIU report should be reviewed. Recommendations Nos. 6 and 7 required a more detailed consideration. As to recommendation No. 8, which called for consultation with those responsible for programme implementation for the purposes of formulating the final text of the rules, the General Assembly could adopt the proposed rules and regulations at the current stage, on the understanding that they could always be refined subsequently.

52. Turning to the rules proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/37/206/Add.1, he emphasized that draft rule 101.1 (a) should be brought into line with regulation 1.1 and that the Secretary-General should be empowered to make exceptions only in very specific cases. Regulation 3.4 should be supplemented by a rule which would contain cross-references to regulations 4.1 to 4.9 and to the rules describing the relationship between the budget and the plan. Draft rule 103.11 (ii), which would give the Secretary-General the power to revise programme mandates which had become obsolete, should be interpreted with care so that the Secretariat would not on its own initiative modify intergovernmental directives. Draft rule 104.6 (iii) should be supplemented so that no activity would be eliminated from the programme budget merely because it had not been undertaken during the previous budget period. Lastly, the wording of rule 105.2 (d) should be reviewed since changes in intergovernmental mandates should not be made to depend solely on whether they could be made "within [the] approved budget".

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.