



Fourth session
Item 43 of the agenda

ORGANIZATION OF A UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Maria Z. N. WITTEVEEN (Netherlands)

1. In accordance with instructions given by the General Assembly at its 224th plenary meeting, the Fifth Committee considered, at its 186th, 187th and 188th meetings held on 28, 29 and 30 September 1949, the question of the organization of a United Nations postal administration on the basis of a report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/988) pursuant to the instructions contained in resolution 232 (III) adopted by the General Assembly on 8 October 1948, and of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as set forth in its fourth report of 1949 (A/1002). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretary-General communicating to the General Assembly, for its information, a note from the United States representative, dated 22 September 1949, concerning the issuance by the United States Government of special postage stamps (A/988/Add.1).

2. In the course of the discussion, the delegation of Argentina submitted a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.2) approving the organization of a United Nations postal administration, authorizing the Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of resolution 232 (III) to conclude the necessary arrangements so that the service might begin operation at the earliest possible date, and requesting the Secretary-General to submit a new report to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly on the arrangements made and to make the necessary provision for the operation of the service in the budget estimates for 1951. Following a general discussion, the Argentine draft resolution, together with amendments proposed by the delegations of Brazil and France, was referred to a Drafting Sub-Committee, consisting of the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, India and Syria, the Chairman and the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Sub-Committee reported back to the Fifth Committee, at its 188th meeting, and submitted an agreed text of a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.3) recommending that the General Assembly, with

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reference to resolution 232 (III) adopted at its third regular session and in particular to paragraph 2 of that resolution, should take note of the report of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on the organization of a United Nations postal administration and should request the Secretary-General (a) to continue the preparation of necessary arrangements for the establishment of such an administration and (b) to submit a new report on this matter to the General Assembly not later than the beginning of the fifth regular session.

3. The Committee was informed that the term "arrangements" should be interpreted as authorizing the Secretary-General not only to continue his study of the matter with the assistance of expert advice and to proceed with essential preparatory work incidental to the organization of a postal service but also to enter into negotiations with the appropriate United States authorities, on the understanding that such negotiations and the other preparatory arrangements undertaken would be the subject of a full report to the General Assembly for its final approval. The Committee was also informed that the Secretary-General would submit a supplementary estimate of approximately \$10,000 for 1950 to cover necessary preliminary expenses such as salaries of experts. With these explanations, the Committee approved by 34 votes to none, with 8 abstentions, the proposal of the Drafting Sub-Committee.

4. The Fifth Committee therefore decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

ORGANIZATION OF A UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution 232 (III) adopted at its third regular session and in particular to paragraph 2 of that resolution,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the organization of a United Nations postal administration (A/988), and of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1002);

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution to continue the preparation of necessary arrangements for the establishment of a United Nations postal administration;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a new report on this matter to the General Assembly not later than the beginning of the fifth regular session.