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at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

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

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16 December 1982

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

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

Organization and methods for official travel (continued) (A/37/357 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/37/7/Add.15)

1. The CHAIRMAN observed that owing to delay in the issue of documents, the Committee was considering the important question of the organization and methods for official travel so late in the session as to preclude a meaningful discussion. In future the item should be scheduled earlier in the session, and he appealed to the Secretariat to have the documentation ready more promptly.

2. Mr. SLORDAHL (Norway) said that his delegation agreed with all but one of the proposals made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report (A/37/357 and Corr.1). It had strong reservations on recommendation 1, in paragraph 97 of the report, that the United Nations should select a commercial travel agency under an in-plant arrangement, because it feared that such an arrangement would give that travel agency a monopoly, which in the long run would not benefit the United Nations system. The Organization was already operating a somewhat similar arrangement that had not led to savings. In the opinion of his delegation, there was only one way to effect savings, and that was free competition.

3. In paragraph 16 of his report (A/37/357/Add.1), the Secretary-General stated that in the past he had on several occasions tried unsuccessfully to obtain travel discounts, of the kind referred to in paragraph 98 of the JIU report, under the system of so-called "government orders". If, however, the Secretary-General were given the backing of a specific General Assembly resolution he might be more successful. It was his delegation's understanding that government-order rebates, usually of 25 per cent, would have saved the United Nations approximately \$27 million in 1981 and \$33 million in 1982. There were currently about 60 major airlines in various countries offering government order discounts to private groups and individuals, and the United Nations should be able to take advantage of the competition to negotiate an advantageous arrangement. A resolution should be drafted asking the Secretary-General to investigate the possibility of obtaining such discounts by requesting the Governments of the home countries of those 60 major airlines to take the matter up with them. The Secretary-General should report back on his investigation at the following session.

4. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation welcomed the recommendations in the JIU report, since they would effect significant savings in the total travel bill of the United Nations system, which amounted to \$150 million. It was also pleased by the Secretary-General's generally positive response to those recommendations. His delegation strongly supported recommendations 1, 2 and 3. The existing relationship between the United Nations and its travel agency did not appear to be particularly favourable to the interests of the United Nations. Obviously, however, recommendation 1 should be implemented

(Mr. Keller, United States)

only if the Organization was able to negotiate a better in-plant travel agency arrangement. Although he agreed with the representative of Norway that a monopoly situation must be avoided, he noted that for that very reason JIU was recommending a process of competitive bidding for an in-plant contract which, he understood, was already under way. The United Nations should also make every effort, including the approach recommended by Norway, to negotiate with the commercial airlines for more favourable rates.

5. With regard to recommendation 4, the best approach would probably be to undertake a feasibility study of initial and operational costs, potential profit and United Nations management capacity. On the subject of recommendations 5 and 6, his delegation agreed with JIU that United Nations officials should, when feasible, travel as economically as possible. In general, business-class travel could be authorized when it was available at the same cost as economy class, and Under-Secretaries-General, Assistant Secretaries-General and delegates previously entitled to first-class travel should in future travel by business class when it was available. His delegation was disappointed by the Secretary-General's suggestion of greater use of business-class travel on official business; it definitely preferred the simple stipulation in General Assembly resolution 32/198 that travel expenses should be limited to the least costly air-fare structure regularly available.

6. The remaining JIU recommendations on procedures merited careful study.

7. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to a question asked at the previous meeting, said that he had reviewed the record of the current travel agency's connections with travel operations in South Africa. In 1974 the Special Committee against Apartheid had drawn the attention of the Secretary-General to the fact that a segment of the travel agency's organization had been promoting tours in South Africa. In 1975 the Board of Directors of the travel agency had agreed that no specific promotions for tours in South Africa would be made and it had appointed one of its members to work on the question in close co-operation with the United Nations system. The Special Committee against Apartheid had found that to be an encouraging development. In 1976, in response to a United Nations inquiry, the agency had stated that, in the light of the sense of United Nations resolutions on the subject of apartheid, it was terminating promotion of all tours to South Africa, and the Special Committee against Apartheid had expressed its approval of that decision. In response to the most recent inquiry by the United Nations in 1981, the travel agency had again confirmed that it did not intend to change that policy. It was therefore obvious that when evaluating any new travel arrangements that the Secretary-General might be considering, the Secretariat would take the United Nations resolutions on apartheid into account.

8. With regard to the statement of the representative of Norway, he felt that it would indeed be of great assistance to the Secretary-General, when negotiating government-order discounts for United Nations personnel, if the General Assembly had specifically endorsed the idea in a resolution. It should be remembered,

(Mr. Timbrell)

however, that with more than 60 airline companies involved the negotiations would be long. In the meantime, there were opportunities to make savings under other revised arrangements that could be made within three to four months. The one approach did not preclude the other, because all contracts negotiated by the United Nations carried a 90-day cancellation clause and were in any case fixed-term contracts.

9. Regarding the United States comments on JIU recommendation 4, it was interesting to note that The New York Times had that very morning reported in its financial section that the Civil Aeronautics Board of the United States was in the process of further relaxing rules governing ticket sales by travel agents and others, but that the one regulation that would undoubtedly be kept related to travel agencies owned by a corporation, which would still be allowed to do no more than 20 per cent of their business with the corporation's own personnel. That regulation had a direct bearing on the possibility of the establishment by the United Nations of an in-plant agency. JIU was aware of that fact, and the Secretary-General agreed that, for the moment, therefore, other action should be taken.

10. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation was dissatisfied with the responses given by the United Nations travel agency with regard to its dealings with South Africa. When in 1975 the agency had stated that it was undertaking no "specific" promotion of tours to South Africa, it had still retained the opportunity to engage in the usual promotions of such tours. Moreover, its reference to the "sense" of United Nations resolutions had been very vague, and those resolutions demanded strict compliance.

11. The situation would apparently improve, however, early in 1983 when a new contract with a travel agency was to be negotiated. The Office of General Services should work with the Office of Legal Affairs on a clause to be included in the new contract with any travel agency - including the existing agency, if it proved to be the most competitive - on dealings with South Africa. None of the \$150 million in United Nations travel expenditure should go to South Africa either directly or indirectly.

12. The United Nations should obtain the best terms available on the competitive international market for the travel of its officials, and should thereafter keep the arrangements under constant review.

Special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations and updating of the special review (A/37/658, A/37/7/Add.1 and Add.14; A/C.5/37/51)

13. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/37/7/Add.14) on the report of the Secretary-General in which he updated the special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations (A/C.5/37/51), said that one of the main reasons for ACABQ's recommendation that the Secretary-General should report on the question at the current session had been

(Mr. Mselle, ACABQ)

to allow the General Assembly to take whatever action it deemed appropriate so that when the Secretary-General came to prepare his programme budget proposals for 1984-1985, he would take into account the decision of the General Assembly. In his report, the Secretary-General listed 162 programme elements, distributed among eight categories which were outlined in paragraph 2 of the report. Categories F to H comprised programme elements which had already been acted upon by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies and the Secretary-General himself; no further action was therefore being called for by the Secretary-General or the Advisory Committee.

14. Categories A and B, referred to in paragraph 3 of the report, comprised programme elements on which action taken by the Secretary-General on his own authority had resulted in the redeployment of over \$3.5 million. Category C comprised programme elements obliquely referred to in paragraph 9 of the ACABQ report. That paragraph implied that if there were greater co-operation between the Secretary-General and Member States, it might be possible to take action on that category of activities.

15. As indicated in paragraph 8 of the ACABQ report, programme elements in the next largest category, category E, should continue to be subjected to critical review by the Secretary-General in preparing his programme budget proposals for 1984-1985. Category D, dealt with in paragraph 7 of the report, comprised activities required by legislative mandate on whose termination or curtailment the Secretary-General left it to the initiative of Member States to make proposals. The resources involved amounted to approximately \$8 million for the biennium. The two alternatives for handling such programme elements were outlined in paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) of the ACABQ report: the Fifth Committee could either request the Secretary-General, when preparing his programme budget proposals for 1984-1985, not to include in them any resources for activities in category D and to so inform the competent intergovernmental organs so as to give them the opportunity, if they so desired, to request that the activities be reinstated; or the Fifth Committee could ask the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to review the 18 programme elements and activities involved and make recommendations accordingly to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

16. The Advisory Committee was not convinced that a separate document updating the special review of the ongoing work programme of the United Nations was needed in future. The process of identifying and terminating or curtailing obsolete, marginally useful and ineffective activities could be reported to the General Assembly in the context of future programme budget proposals and performance reports by the Secretary-General. It should be noted that the end of the final sentence of paragraph 10 of the ACABQ report, dealing with that question, should read "future programme budget proposals and performance reports" not "or performance reports", since both were necessary.

17. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) thanked the Advisory Committee for having given priority to consideration of the Secretary-General's updated report (A/C.5/37/51) and for having issued its own report (A/37/7/Add.14) so quickly. His delegation was generally pleased with the ACABQ report and strongly endorsed paragraphs 4 and 8.

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(Mr. Godfrey, New Zealand)

18. The programme elements in category D were those to which the Fifth Committee should primarily address itself. The Advisory Committee had suggested two alternatives in paragraphs 7 (a) and (b) of its report. His delegation believed that there was a third alternative: the Fifth Committee, after consultation with the other Main Committees, could agree at the current session to terminate some activities so that the resultant savings could be redeployed in the current programme budget to finance higher-priority activities in other fields.

19. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that although the updated report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/51), had been submitted late, it was gratifying that it should have been submitted before the approval of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 so that its impact and usefulness would not be lost completely. His delegation welcomed the categorization in paragraph 7 of the activities listed in annex II of document A/36/658 but did not feel that a genuine effort had been made to identify activities that were of low priority, obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective; that view was endorsed in paragraph 7 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/37/7/Add.1). It was to be hoped that in future all departments and offices would make greater efforts in that respect.

20. It was indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/51) that the resources to be released in 1983 as a result of the termination or curtailment of activities in categories A, B and C amounted to some \$3.6 million; that figure was not negligible, although it was much smaller than the \$20-\$25 million for the biennium 1982-1983 associated with the proposals in annex II of the Secretary-General's report (A/36/658) of the previous year. In accordance with the philosophy outlined in that report, the Secretary-General was in effect suggesting the redeployment of all released resources to activities deemed to be of high priority which needed strengthening; his delegation felt that that procedure required serious consideration. In that connection, it noted that the activities identified as being of high priority to which redeployment of resources was being proposed by the Secretary-General were generally activities for which the necessary budgetary provision had already been made in the budget for the 1982-1983 biennium. There was therefore no convincing basis for automatically redeploying released resources to activities "deemed of high priority and which needed strengthening" and for granting additional resources to those activities simply because they were of high priority. If the activities in question needed strengthening, the matter should be considered within the context of the budget for the 1984-1985 biennium. His delegation felt that the resources released in respect of low-priority activities under categories A to C should be kept in reserve or redeployed to new activities - for instance activities requiring additional appropriations deriving from new legislative mandates adopted by the General Assembly at the current session.

21. His delegation was prepared to support the immediate termination of the activities under category D. If, however, the general feeling was that the matter should be referred to CPC for further consideration, his delegation could support that approach. It believed that the General Assembly should advise CPC to review activities under category E in order to determine whether they were sufficiently useful to warrant being continued in their entirety and whether some of them could be terminated.

(Mr. Kuyama, Japan)

22. His delegation supported the view expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his report that the identification of obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective activities should be an integral part of the programme planning cycle. However, it would reserve its final judgement on the need for the proposed special review until the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 was submitted.

23. His delegation suspected that if programme managers tended to be reluctant to engage in priority-setting or identifying obsolete activities, one of the major reasons was that redeployment was difficult. Redeployment might become easier if staff members with broader knowledge and experience were recruited in greater numbers so that they could cope with the wider scope of United Nations activities and if a more systematic training system were instituted for existing staff members, with due regard for career development. His delegation would be grateful if the representative of the Secretary-General would comment on that issue and hoped that the idea would be given appropriate consideration.

24. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the late submission of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/51) and the shallowness of its substance suggested unwillingness or inability to conduct a proper programme evaluation. Document A/C.5/37/51 was almost a non-document, after so many years of requests on the subject from the General Assembly. The updated report should have been available before the beginning of the session so as to enable delegations to review it thoroughly in the context of the medium-term plan and to allow the report to be referred to the competent Main Committees with a view to determining areas where decisions could be taken or where the views of sectoral intergovernmental bodies concerned might have been sought.

25. His delegation noted that the Secretary-General had taken action on his own authority in relation to activities under categories A and B but that resources had been redeployed chiefly to activities listed under annex III, for which adequate resources had already been appropriated in the 1982-1983 budget. That procedure was not proper; redeployment in respect of activities in categories A to C should be considered in the context of the budget for the 1984-1985 biennium. The Secretary-General had refrained from making any proposals about activities in category C; his delegation supported the idea that such activities should be referred to CPC for consideration in the context of the 1984-1985 budget. The same applied to activities under category E. As to activities under category D, his delegation favoured the first alternative mentioned by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 7 of its report (A/37/7/Add.14). His delegation supported the view expressed in paragraph 10 of that report that further ad hoc examinations of the ongoing programme of the United Nations, such as the special review, were not necessary, provided that the programming regulations and rules were adopted by the General Assembly and could serve as an effective basis for programme budgeting.

26. Mrs. LOPEZ ORTEGA (Mexico) said that her delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 7 (b) of its report (A/37/7/Add.14).

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Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

27. The CHAIRMAN observed that in paragraph 16 of its decision 34/401 the General Assembly had decided that the practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponded to the number of seats to be filled should become standard unless a delegation specifically requested a vote on a given election.

(e) Appointment of three members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal (A/37/185; A/C.5/37/60).

28. The CHAIRMAN said that in document A/37/185 the Secretary-General referred to the provisions of article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and informed the General Assembly of the need for it to appoint three persons to fill vacancies that would arise in the membership of the Tribunal on 1 January 1983. The persons so appointed would serve for a period of three years. In document A/C.5/37/60 the Secretary-General had communicated to the Committee the names of three persons nominated by their respective governments for appointment or reappointment to the Administrative Tribunal. Their names were: Mr. Roger Pinto (France), Mr. Samarendranath Sen (India) and Mr. Mutuale Tshikankie (Zaire). Since there were three nominations for three vacant seats, he suggested that the Committee should dispense with the secret ballot.

29. It was so decided.

30. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Roger Pinto, Mr. Samarendranath Sen and Mr. Mutuale Tshikankie as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1983.

31. It was so decided.

(g) Appointment of three members and three alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee (A/37/187; A/C.5/37/61).

32. The CHAIRMAN said that, in document A/37/187 the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that, in accordance with article 6 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, three members and three alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee were to be appointed to fill the vacancies that would arise in its membership on 1 January 1983. The persons so appointed would serve for a period of three years. In document A/C.5/37/61 the Secretary-General communicated to the Committee the names of six persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment to the Staff Pension Committee. The nominees were: Mr. Eduardo César Afion Noceti (Uruguay), Mr. Jobst Holborn (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. Sol Kuttner (United States of America), Mr. Mario Majoli (Italy), Mr. Michael G. Okeyo (Kenya) and Mr. Yukio Takasu (Japan).

(The Chairman)

33. He had been informed that, following consultations among delegations and among the nominees themselves, it had been agreed that, if appointed, Mr. Kuttner, Mr. Majoli and Mr. Okeyo would serve as members and Mr. Afon Noceti, Mr. Holborn and Mr. Takasu as alternate members of the Staff Pension Committee.

34. Since the number of candidates was equal to the number of seats to be filled, he suggested that the Committee should dispense with the secret ballot.

35. It was so decided.

36. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Kuttner, Mr. Majoli and Mr. Okeyo as members and Mr. Afon Noceti, Mr. Holborn and Mr. Takasu as alternate members of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1983.

37. It was so decided.

38. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) paid a tribute to Mrs. Paul Bastid, who had been associated with the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for over 20 years and had made a significant contribution to the development of administrative jurisprudence in the United Nations.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions submitted by the First Committee: A/C.1/37/L.62 (as orally amended), L.67, L.54, L.22/Rev.2, L.10, L.28 and L.52 (as orally amended), concerning agenda items 40, 49, 54, 55, 103 and 133 (c) (A/C.5/37/68, 74, 75, 76, 79, 80, 84; A/37/7/Add.16)

39. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the total requirement estimated by the Secretary-General for the draft resolutions before the Committee was \$7 million, of which about \$3.1 million related to 1983 and roughly \$4 million to 1984 and 1985.

40. Paragraph 2 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/37/7/Add.16) provided a breakdown of the Secretary-General's estimates and dealt in detail with the requirements for 1983. For 1983 the Secretary-General estimated non-conference-servicing requirements at \$521,300 and conference-servicing requirements under section 29 of the budget at \$2,567,700; the latter figure would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted at the end of the session. The non-conference-servicing costs were broken down in detail in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report. In paragraphs 6 to 11, the Advisory Committee examined the requirements of the draft resolutions separately and outlined its recommendations. Paragraph 12 was a recapitulation of the Advisory Committee's recommendations and paragraph 13 showed the appropriation being recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 2 of the budget.

(Mr. Mselle, ACABQ)

41. In short, the Advisory Committee was recommending an amount of \$434,300 to be appropriated under the various draft resolutions, as indicated in paragraph 13 of its report. The reasons for the slight reductions in the estimates were given in paragraphs 7, 8, and 10 of the report.

42. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said that the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.54 and L.22/Rev.2 were unjustified.

43. Mr. ROY (India) said that his delegation could not endorse ACABQ's recommendations concerning the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2, L.52, as orally amended, and L.54.

44. Mr. YAKOVENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested separate votes on the recommendations relating to the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 and L.54. His delegation had voted against those draft resolutions in the First Committee and would vote against the recommendations.

45. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that his delegation would not have objected to the approval of the Advisory Committee's recommendations without a vote. However, since separate votes had already been requested, his delegation would likewise request separate votes on the recommendations relating to the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.10, L.52, as orally amended, and L.62, as orally amended.

46. Mr. WANG Chengwei (China) said that his delegation would abstain in the voting on the recommendation relating to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2, but would vote in favour of those relating to the other draft resolutions.

47. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.62, as orally amended, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$90,700 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Conference-servicing costs, calculated on a full-cost basis, would amount to \$634,500.

48. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 79 votes to 1, with 6 abstentions.

49. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$73,900 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Conference-servicing costs, calculated on a full-cost basis, would amount to \$351,900.

50. The CHAIRMAN's proposal was adopted by 60 votes to 13, with 12 abstentions.

51. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$58,000 would be required under section 2 of the

(The Chairman)

programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. The conference-servicing costs were estimated at \$581,100.

52. The CHAIRMAN's proposal was adopted by 66 votes to 12, with 5 abstentions.

53. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.10, an additional appropriation of \$134,300 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

54. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 76 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions.

55. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.52, as orally amended, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$77,400 would be required under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Conference-servicing costs were estimated at \$522,800.

56. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 83 votes to 2.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.67 and L.28, no additional appropriations would be required. The related 1983 conference-servicing costs, calculated on a full-cost basis, would amount to \$318,300 and \$159,100 respectively. The actual additional appropriations would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted at a later stage during the current session.

58. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to inform the General Assembly accordingly.

59. It was so decided.

60. Mrs. LISBOA (Venezuela), speaking in explanation of vote, said that her delegation had abstained from voting on the proposal relating to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54. The administrative and financial implications were not justified. Venezuela was a party to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. While her delegation saw no justification whatsoever for the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, it doubted that the draft resolution would secure observance of the terms of the Protocol.

61. Mr. TOMASZEWSKI (Poland) said that his Government attached great importance to the total prohibition of chemical weapons and the elimination of stockpiles of such weapons. The Working Group of the Committee on Disarmament dealing with such questions was making commendable progress. For the third time, however, the General Assembly was being requested to allow appropriations for activities that were doomed to failure. His delegation had therefore voted against the proposal

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(Mr. Tomaszewski, Poland)

relating to the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54.

62. Mr. YAKOVENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the adoption by the General Assembly of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.10 would lead to the creation of one Professional post and one General Services post. His delegation believed that the activities in question should be performed by the existing staff; it had therefore abstained from voting on the proposal relating to the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

63. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted against the proposal relating to the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.62, as orally amended. Under that draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to carry out a comprehensive study, bearing in mind the savings that could be made within the existing budgetary appropriations. It was indicated in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/37/68) that savings could be expected under consultancy funds, but not under the provisions for travel. The use of outside expertise did not necessarily result in research of a high calibre. In calling for studies, the General Assembly should seek to maximize the input from the Secretariat, which was composed of many talented individuals. The use of outside expertise should be kept to a minimum.

64. His delegation had already stated in the First Committee why it could not support draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.62, as orally amended. Its position with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2 was based on the same principles.

65. As to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.10, while his delegation supported the objectives of the United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament, it believed that the expansion of the programme was neither justified nor cost-effective. It was not convinced of the need to strengthen staffing resources; what was important was to redeploy and make more efficient use of existing resources.

66. His delegation hoped that the conference-servicing costs of draft resolutions A/C.1/37/L.67 and L.28 would be absorbed and had therefore not objected to the related proposals.

67. Mr. KBAIER (Tunisia) said that his delegation's affirmative vote on the proposal relating to the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the substance of the draft resolution.

68. Mr. CAPPAGLI (Argentina) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on the proposal relating to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54 for reasons already stated in the First Committee.

69. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said that his delegation had voted against the proposal relating to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.54. Under that draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to devise procedures for the timely and efficient investigation of information concerning activities which might constitute a violation of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. While his delegation attached great importance to the elimination of chemical weapons and believed that all States should be urged to honour the terms of the Protocol, it doubted that the procedures referred to in the draft resolution would be of much use in such sensitive matters.

70. His delegation had also voted against the proposal relating to draft resolution A/C.1/37/L.22/Rev.2. The draft resolution envisaged a transparent system for the reporting of military expenditure. The recently concluded conflict in the South Atlantic showed where such a system could lead.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.7 submitted by the Special Political Committee, concerning agenda item 62 (continued)
(A/C.5/37/77)

71. Mr. GEPP (Brazil) said that if his delegation had been present during the voting on the proposal relating to draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.7, it would have voted in favour.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.