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ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
75th meeting  
held on  
Friday, 17 December 1982  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 75th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

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

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28 December 1982

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

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

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/37/L.122 concerning agenda item 72 (c) (A/C.5/37/99)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), presenting the Advisory Committee's oral report on the statement of the administrative and financial implications contained in document A/C.5/37/99, said that the Second Committee had adopted draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.122, which called for the convening in early 1984 of a conference of plenipotentiaries to consider the adoption of an international agreement concerning the conditions on which vessels would be accepted on national shipping registers. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft recommended that the Trade and Development Board should establish a Preparatory Committee for the Conference. That Committee would give rise to conference-servicing costs in 1983 estimated on a full-cost basis at \$434,200. Those costs would be taken up in the context of the consolidated paper on conference-servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the current session. It was assumed that the Conference itself would give rise to conference-servicing costs estimated on a full-cost basis at 1983 rates at \$391,500, which would be taken up by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, he proposed that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.122, conference-servicing requirements would arise which were estimated on a full-cost basis at \$434,200 for 1983 and \$391,500 for 1984. The actual additional appropriations that might be required in that respect 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, in respect of 1983 costs, and in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 in respect of 1984 costs. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that proposal.

3. It was so decided.

4. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation did not object to the adoption of the proposal without a vote. However, had there been a vote, his delegation would have voted against, because it felt that a conference was not warranted at the current time.

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Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/37/L.118/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 71 (d) (A/C.5/37/100)

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), presenting the Advisory Committee's oral report on the statement of administrative and financial implications contained in document A/C.5/37/100, observed that the Second Committee by its draft resolution in document A/C.2/37/L.118/Rev.1 recommended a series of informal and formal consultations among States to determine the entry into force of the UNIDO Constitution. A series of meetings would take place in New York and Vienna. The Secretary-General had estimated, for a formal meeting in Vienna, conference-servicing costs calculated on a full-cost basis of \$126,600. The Advisory Committee noted that in the initial estimates in the 1982-1983 programme budget UNIDO had estimated \$1.09 million for temporary assistance and that a number of Professional posts were available in the conference services in UNIDO. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee felt that the figure of \$126,000 could be reduced to \$60,000. No additional amount was requested for the meetings in New York.
6. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that, when his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution in the Second Committee, it had been under the impression that the only costs involved related to conference services and would be considered in the context of the Secretary-General's consolidated statement. It expected a large part of those costs to be absorbed within existing resources, as was the Secretariat's policy in preparing its final estimates of conference-servicing requirements.
7. The statement of financial implications now submitted to the Committee (A/C.5/37/100) assigned some of the costs to section 17 of the budget, where it was unlikely that they could be absorbed. His delegation had no objection to the holding of the formal meeting as such, but felt that all the costs should have been ascribed to section 29 of the budget. He accordingly requested a vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendations and announced that he would vote against them on financial grounds.
8. The CHAIRMAN said that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, he proposed that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.118/Rev.1, an additional appropriation of \$60,000 would be required under section 17 (UNIDO) of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. Further conference-servicing requirements would arise which were estimated, on a full-cost basis, at \$35,400. The actual additional appropriations that might be required in that respect 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.
9. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 75 votes to 10, with 3 abstentions.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/37/L.76/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 71 (d) (A/C.5/37/101)

10. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), presenting the Advisory Committee's oral report on the statement of Administrative and financial implications contained in document A/C.5/37/101, observed that the Secretary-General was requesting an appropriation of \$1,028,400 for 10 additional posts of senior industrial development field advisers (SIDFAs) under section 17 of the 1982-1983 programme budget. The Advisory Committee had agreed to recommend acceptance of the Secretary-General's request with the exception of the \$85,000 for travel, namely, \$70,000 in paragraph 4 (a) and \$15,000 in paragraph 4 (b) of the statement. The rationale was that in the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 (A/36/6), paragraph 17.33, which gave information on official travel of SIDFAs, showed an initial request of \$530,100 at 1981 rates to cover the travel requirements of 46 SIDFAs. It had been expected that UNDP would finance the 46 SIDFAs. However, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 (A/36/7), the Advisory Committee had discussed the subject in paragraph 17.15 and 17.16 and had pointed out that, in accordance with paragraph 23 of document DP/555, the Administrator of UNDP had proposed that UNDP financing should be limited to the 33 SIDFAs who were then in post or under recruitment. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction in the travel costs requested by the Secretary-General. During its subsequent review of document A/C.5/37/101, the Advisory Committee had been informed that UNDP was financing 31 SIDFAs instead of 33. The Advisory Committee had also asked the representatives of the Secretary-General and the representatives of the Executive Director of UNIDO how much had been allocated under section 17 (UNIDO) in 1982-1983 for travel by SIDFAs and had been told that the figure was \$456,000. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had concluded that there were funds available for travel under the regular budget and that the amount already appropriated should be used for the SIDFAs proposed for inclusion under the regular budget.

11. With respect to part B, which dealt with preparatory activities and the holding of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, the Secretary-General requested additional funds to cover two main items, namely, conference-servicing costs and travel and subsistence for experts. The Advisory Committee had no objections to the amounts of \$250,000 and \$62,100 requested by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 7 (a) and 7 (b). However, it felt that the \$4,500 for miscellaneous costs requested in paragraph 7 (c) could be absorbed within existing resources. The conference-servicing costs of \$367,500 (para. 7) and \$341,800 (para. 12), totalling \$709,300, had been prepared on a full-cost basis and did not take into account resources already available to UNIDO. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended \$500,000 for temporary assistance for meetings instead of the \$709,300 requested. It had no objections to the \$10,000 requested in paragraph 9 for public information activities but felt that the travel costs of \$47,000 (para. 11) should be absorbed within existing resources for the reasons indicated in paragraphs 17.15 and 17.16 of document A/36/7.

(Mr. Mselle, ACABQ)

12. With regard to part C, concerning the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the appropriations requested were explained in paragraphs 13 to 16 of document A/C.5/37/101. The Advisory Committee had no objections to the requests in paragraph 15 for two new posts (one P-4 and one P-3) for the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division in Addis Ababa. However, it was unable to agree to the requests in paragraph 14 for one P-5 post and one General Service post for the Co-ordination Unit for the Industrial Decade for Africa in UNIDO, Vienna; it was not convinced that those requests were fully justified, since UNIDO had had a total of 104 P-5 posts (77 financed under the regular budget and 27 financed from extrabudgetary sources) according to the initial estimates for 1982-1983. The Advisory Committee believed that there was room for redeployment and so could not agree to the \$51,200 requested in paragraph 14. It had agreed to the estimate of \$126,700 explained in paragraph 16 and that of \$15,000 referred to in paragraph 17.

13. In summary, the Advisory Committee was recommending additional amounts of \$83,500 under section 13 and \$1,907,200 (instead of \$2,304,200) under section 17. For staff assessment the additional amount would be \$201,000 (instead of \$213,000), offset by the same amount under income section 1.

14. The CHAIRMAN said he had been advised that no conference-servicing requirements were expected to arise for the United Nations in connection with the approval of the draft resolution.

15. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had already explained its position on the substance of the draft resolution in the Second Committee. As far as the administrative and financial aspects of the draft were concerned, it opposed the transfer of posts from voluntary funding to the regular budget. The Fifth Committee was being asked to approve over \$1 million for 10 SIDFA posts; the Secretary-General indicated that over 80 SIDFAs would eventually be required. Delegations could draw their own conclusions as to the impact of the SIDFA programme on their assessed contributions to the Organization. He was also disappointed that the costs of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO were being presented for consideration, since he understood that the Conference would not necessarily take place under United Nations auspices. He had, however, noted the statement just made by the Chairman. His delegation could not support any of the increases in funding required by the draft resolution, and asked for the Advisory Committee's recommendation to be put to a vote.

16. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was also unable to support the appropriations requested in connection with the draft resolution. He strongly believed that the United Nations should not embark upon any additional activities in the middle of a budget period, except for action to maintain international peace and security, which was the essential purpose of the Organization. Furthermore, the Secretary-General proposed the transfer of a number of posts from extrabudgetary funding to the regular budget, a practice which his delegation had always opposed. Posts financed by voluntary contributions should lapse when the funding for them ran out. It made no sense to transfer them to the regular budget. If the General Assembly approved the transfer, his Government

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(Mr. Grodsky, USSR)

would withhold from its assessed contribution a sum corresponding to its share of the costs involved. If the activities for which funds were now requested were of high priority, the Committee should have been provided with a statement of the programme implications of the draft resolution. It would then have been possible to identify programmes of lower priority from which resources could be redeployed.

17. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that he would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, even though some of its reductions were rather harsh.

18. Mr. Basharat ALI (Bangladesh) said that the draft resolution in question was of great importance to the developing countries. The additional posts requested by the Secretary-General were essential to the development of the least developed countries, especially those in Africa. One delegation had implied that in agreeing to finance ten SIDFAs at the current stage, the Committee would in effect be sanctioning all 84 such posts that the Secretary-General estimated to be necessary; that, however, was incorrect. Section A, paragraph 5, of the draft made it plain that the Industrial Development Board would examine the question of financing SIDFA posts in the developing countries at its forthcoming session, and in the light of the Board's decision the General Assembly would then consider increasing the SIDFA programme at its thirty-eighth session. The final decision on the number of SIDFA posts to be funded had therefore been left for a future occasion. In response to the suggestion that the essential purpose of the United Nations was to maintain international peace and security, he asserted that the prime objective of the Organization was to promote economic and social development.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, he proposed that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.76/Rev.1, additional appropriations totalling \$1,990,700 would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, to be apportioned in the following way: \$83,500 under section 13 and \$1,907,200 under section 17. A further appropriation of \$201,000 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase of the same amount in the estimates of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

20. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 53 votes to 18, with 8 abstentions.

21. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom), explaining his vote after the vote, said that the cost of the activities referred to in section A of the draft resolution should not be transferred to the regular budget, and the costs of the activities dealt with in sections B and C should be met from existing resources. Accordingly, he had voted against the Chairman's proposal. He also endorsed the remarks by the Soviet representative concerning the lack of any statement of the programme implications of the draft resolution.

22. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that his delegation deplored the proliferation of posts in the United Nations system, and therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the resources requested in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/37/101). It hoped, however, that the refusal to

(Mr. Ziniel, Ghana)

establish the P-5 post in question would not unduly hamper the effective implementation of the resolution. While he sympathized with the concern of some delegations to avoid making additional resources available for programmes in the middle of the biennium, he could not agree that the only area of such importance to the Organization that an exception must be made was the maintenance of international peace and security. Article 1 of the Charter listed, among the purposes of the United Nations, co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and the decision just taken by the Committee embraced such co-operation.

Section 28J: Staff training activities (New York, Geneva and regional commissions): contractual status of language teachers (A/37/7/Add.24; A/C.5/37/63)

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew attention to the report of the Advisory Committee on the contractual status of language teachers (A/37/7/Add.24) and said that it was self-explanatory.

24. The CHAIRMAN remarked that it was very late for the Secretary-General's proposals to be submitted to the Committee, especially since the subject had already been discussed at the previous session. The Secretariat should take considerably more pains to submit such proposals early in General Assembly sessions.

25. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation shared the concerns voiced by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/37/7/Add.24), and welcomed the suggestions of ACABQ on how best to deal with the problem. He understood that procedures already existed for hiring people on a seasonal basis, and wondered whether those procedures might provide a basis for a new contract for language teachers. He asked for clarification on that point.

26. Pension rights could not be divorced from other conditions of service. He sympathized with the Advisory Committee's approach to the pensions issue, but felt that it would be better to refer the whole subject back to the Secretary-General for further study, in the expectation that new proposals would be submitted at the thirty-eighth session. If all the problems raised by the teachers' participation in the Joint Staff Pension Fund were settled, he would like to know whether the costs of allowing the teachers to join the Fund could be absorbed by the Secretariat. In any event, it would be inappropriate to approve additional funds at the current stage since it was not yet certain that the teachers would be covered by United Nations pension arrangements.

27. Mr. LANDAU (Austria) endorsed the Chairman's remarks about the late submission of the proposals. He believed that it would be possible to make contractual arrangements for the language teachers that satisfied the doubts raised in the reports before the Committee and answered the points made by the United States representative. The Committee should approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

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28. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Secretary-General's proposals did not appear to have been properly thought out. They would not accord equal treatment to all the language teachers, and there was no indication that the changes proposed would result in any improvement in the productivity of the teachers affected. His delegation firmly held that improvements in the contractual status of any United Nations employee should be made only when an increase in that employee's output could be expected to ensue. Besides, the arrangements under which language teachers were currently employed had demonstrated their worth over a number of years.

29. In view of the foregoing, the other criticisms raised by the Advisory Committee, and the late submission of the Secretary-General's proposals, his delegation suggested that consideration of the matter should be deferred to the thirty-eighth session.

30. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that the General Assembly had already referred the question of the language teachers' contractual status back to the Secretary-General for further study and had given an assurance that it would take a decision on the matter at the current session. He could not understand why the Advisory Committee was now recommending against acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals. In his view, it would be unfair and unreasonable to postpone further a decision that directly affected the contractual status of 48 individuals. He called upon the Committee to accept the Secretary-General's proposals.

31. Mr. MONAYAIR (Kuwait) agreed that the Committee had given an undertaking to reach a decision at the thirty-seventh session. The language teachers were doing an excellent job: he hoped that the Secretary-General's proposals would be given due consideration.

32. Mr. HADID (Algeria) said that his delegation, too, regretted that, owing to the late stage in the debate at which the item was being taken up, the Committee would be unable to devote proper attention to it. The Secretary-General had attempted to deal appropriately with the very real problem of the contractual status of full-time language teachers and he hoped that serious and decisive consideration could be given soon to the issue.

33. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) expressed dismay at the attempts on the part of some delegations to postpone a decision until the following year. He recalled that the Committee had agreed the previous year, following a lengthy debate, to take a decision on the issue at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly in the light of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General and the related comments of the Advisory Committee. Those documents were now before the Committee. In fairness to the teachers the Committee must take a decision now, one way or the other; it could not ask them to wait another year. His delegation was sorry that the documents had been submitted so late in the session. It was prepared to accept the proposals made by the Secretary-General or, as a first step, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and he urged other delegations to do likewise.



34. Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan) associated himself with the statements made by the representatives of Egypt, Kuwait and Algeria. His delegation would like the Committee to approve the proposals of the Secretary-General, particularly those relating to the granting of staff-member status to full-time language teachers.

35. Mrs. de HEDERVARY (Belgium) wondered why the late submission of documents was being stressed in the present instance. Documents relating to other items had also been submitted late. Given the fact that the United Nations had decided to provide language classes, it had a certain obligation towards the language teachers. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee were very sensible and represented the minimum which the language teachers could expect in most countries, namely, an appointment for a specified period of time, remuneration calculated on an annual basis, a minimum number of hours to be worked, sickness and maternity benefits and post-employment benefits.

36. Mr. KABA (Guinea) said that the Committee should heed the remarks of the representatives of Egypt and Belgium and the comments made by the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon concerning the need for justice. He urged the Committee to take a positive decision.

37. Mr. ABOLY (Ivory Coast) said that he, too, believed that the Committee should be able to take a decision at the current session.

38. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), noting that the main argument being advanced in favour of a decision at the current session was the need to be just towards the language teachers, said that the Soviet Union had always been in favour of justice. However, he pointed out that altogether there were 149 language teachers and the report of the Secretary-General took into consideration only 48 of them: those who taught 12 hours or more a week. If members of the Committee were concerned about the need for justice, why were they so anxious to take a decision involving the granting of additional benefits to a mere one third of the language teachers. It would be much fairer to postpone a decision and to take the matter up again the following year when a more balanced attitude towards the whole problem could prevail. Moreover, although his delegation had no data concerning the other duty stations, it noted that of the 20 full-time teachers who would receive additional benefits at headquarters, eight taught French, seven Spanish, three English, one Arabic and one Chinese. There was not one Russian teacher among them. In the interest of fairness, the Committee must reject the Secretary-General's proposals as they did not treat the different languages in an even-handed manner. Despite the arguments advanced by other delegations his delegation remained convinced that the matter was not yet ripe for a decision.

39. Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados) said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee were the minimum that should be done for the teachers. At the same time, he saw merit in the Soviet call for further study of the issue. Accordingly, he hoped that the Committee would accept the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as an interim measure and, at the same time, call for a further study of the issue to be submitted to the General Assembly at its next session, at which time justice could be done to all the language groups.

40. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that although his delegation believed that the problem should be resolved on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals, it was willing to accept the compromise proposal, namely, that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee should be accepted and that a further study of the entire matter should be requested. In that connection, he observed that justice delayed was justice denied. However, as the representative of the Soviet Union had pointed out, the problem affected many more than the 48 teachers mentioned in the report. A solution must be found that embraced them all.

41. Mr. HUANG (Office of Personnel Services), replying to observations concerning the late submission of the Secretary-General's report, recalled that at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly the Advisory Committee had indicated that the Secretary-General should try to explore ways of providing full-time teachers with superannuation benefits. One alternative considered in the Secretary-General's report - that of participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund - had only recently become possible in the light of the Pension Board's recommendation in its current report (A/37/9) that officials other than staff members should be eligible to participate in the Fund. That report had been issued only recently and that was why the report of the Secretary-General had been delayed. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee that post-employment benefits should be granted to full-time teachers even though they should not be granted staff-member status represented a compromise. The Fifth Committee could accept that recommendation and still request a further study of the matter concerning the desirability of granting full-time teachers - and, as the representative of the Soviet Union had pointed out, part-time teachers - staff-member status.

42. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said he agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that the question of the status of all language teachers must be settled. Adoption of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee did not mean that the matter was closed. The Secretary-General should submit further proposals next year.

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/63) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/37/Add.24), that it adopt, on an interim basis, the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report, and that it decide, furthermore, to consider the matter fully at its thirty-eighth session on the basis of an up-dated report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

44. With regard to superannuation benefits, he proposed that, in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should approve an additional appropriation of \$106,000 under the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, to be apportioned in the following way: section 28J, \$89,100; section 28M, \$12,300; section 18, \$2,300; and section 19, \$2,300.

45. It was so decided.

46. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, had the proposal to appropriate additional funds been put to the vote, his delegation would not have been able to support it for the reasons it had indicated in its earlier statement. It was of the utmost importance that new expenditures should be approved only if they helped to enhance the effectiveness of a given service. In the present case, his delegation did not see any evidence to indicate that that might be so in either of the reports before the Committee. Accordingly, it proposed that all subsequent studies of the matter should take into account the close relationship that must exist between enhancing the effectiveness of activities in a given service and the appropriation of additional funds. Language teaching had been in operation for many years and had given good results. Many of the teachers worked part time. Accordingly, his delegation felt that the services provided by the language teachers were well organized and produced good results and it saw no need for making any radical changes.

47. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation considered a decision on the matter to be premature, given the questions raised in the Advisory Committee's report which remained unanswered. His delegation had also asked a number of questions in its earlier statement which had been studiously ignored. In particular, he wondered whether the language teachers could not be hired on a seasonal appointment basis, which would make it possible for them to participate in the Pension Fund. The additional financial requirements of the decision should be absorbed and, had there been a vote, his delegation would have voted against the Chairman's proposal.

First performance report (continued) (A/37/7/Add.23; A/C.5/37/65)

48. Mr. FREILICH (Israel) said that his delegation had serious objections to expenditure on a number of activities, including the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, the holding of seminars on alleged violations of human rights in territories administered by Israel, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/127, and the relocation of ECWA. His delegation therefore requested that the recommendation to approve the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General should be put to the vote.

49. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that, since a vote had been requested, his delegation would prefer a recorded vote to be taken.

50. The revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, as contained in document A/C.5/37/65, were approved by 64 votes to 5, with 19 abstentions.

51. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) observed that, despite various savings resulting primarily from favourable exchange rates and inflation that was lower than expected, the Secretary-General had still included in the performance report additional requirements which could have been absorbed in large part if an effort had been made to redeploy resources released by curtailing or terminating activities included in categories A and B in the report on the special review of the ongoing programme of the Organization (A/C.5/37/51).

52. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, while his delegation supported many of the new activities included in the first performance report, it could not support others for reasons of principle. His delegation was, as a rule, opposed to the approval of additional appropriations in mid-biennium which were not related to the main functions of the Organization. Accordingly, his delegation had abstained in the voting.

53. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that his delegation had abstained primarily for the reasons given by the representative of Japan.

54. Mr. van HELLENBERG HUBAR (Netherlands) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the programme budget at the preceding session, it had not been able to support the performance report for the reasons given by the representative of Japan and because of the vote it had cast at the current session with regard to the financial implications of several draft resolutions.

55. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that at the preceding session his delegation had voted against the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, which provided for significant real growth. Although the revised estimates showed a reduction in dollar terms as a result of fortuitous exchange profits, they included requirements for new activities which would not be absorbed. His delegation had therefore voted against acceptance of the figures submitted by the Secretary-General in the performance report.

56. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the revised estimates. It was, nevertheless, deeply concerned over the high vacancy rate prevailing in ECWA and hoped that efforts would be redoubled to solve that problem.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (continued) (A/37/186 and Add.1; A/C.5/37/98)

(f) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:

(i) APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION;

(ii) DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

57. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his note (A/37/186), it was necessary to appoint five members of the International Civil Service Commission to serve four-year terms beginning on 1 January 1983. In an addendum to that note (A/37/186/Add.1), the Secretary-General had subsequently informed the General Assembly that Mr. Akira Matsui had resigned from membership in ICSC and that, accordingly, it would be necessary to appoint one person to fill the unexpired portion of his term of office, which had until 31 December 1984 to run.

58. The Committee had received another communication from the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/98), in which he informed the Fifth Committee of the consultations he had held with the various parties concerned, in accordance with the provisions of the

(The Chairman)

statute of ICSC, and that, on the basis of those consultations, he was in a position, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to propose that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that Mr. Richard M. Akwei, Mr. Gaston de Prat Gay, Mr. Moulaye El Hassen, Mr. Jiri Nosek and Mr. Dayton Hull should be appointed for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1983, and that Mr. Masao Kanazawa should be appointed for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1983. The Secretary-General also recommended that Mr. Akwei and Mr. de Prat Gay should be designated Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the Secretary-General's proposal.

59. It was so decided.

60. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that the Chairmen of that Group for September and October had addressed letters to the Secretary-General and the Chairmen of the other regional groups concerning the understanding reached with respect to the candidacy of Mr. Dayton Hull of the United States of America. The text of those letters had been made available to each delegation and to the members of ACC. It was the intention of the group to present only one candidate, Mr. André-Xavier Pirson of Belgium, when Mr. Hull relinquished his seat on the Commission in 1985. He trusted that that arrangement would be understood and supported by other delegations at that time as a matter within the accepted purview of the Group of Western European and Other States.

61. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that there was a need to clarify the procedure which the Committee had just followed in adopting the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the appointment of members of ICSC. Any misinterpretation of the rules governing the appointment of members of that body could have implications for appointments to other bodies whose members also served in a personal capacity. His delegation was not questioning the qualifications of either Mr. Hull or Mr. Pirson. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendation, which had been made in accordance with articles 4 and 5 of the statute of ICSC. It also attached special importance to article 3 of the statute, which specified that members of ICSC were appointed to serve in a personal capacity. The Group of Western European and Other States should not have involved the Fifth Committee in an arrangement which was clearly internal to that Group.

62. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that the Group of Western European and Other States had merely wanted to inform the General Assembly that, when Mr. Hull resigned, it would present only one candidate. The Group would, of course, follow all the required procedures and it was not its intention to violate any rule.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.