



---

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 70th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden)

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

**CONTENTS**

**AGENDA ITEM 145: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP**

---

\*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 DC2.750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM 145: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (A/42/244 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1)**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly had decided to include in the agenda of its forty-second session a new item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee. The General Assembly had also asked the Fifth Committee to resume its meetings so as to consider the item on the basis of the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/42/244 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).
2. The Committee therefore had an important technical role to play, namely, to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the financial and administrative arrangements necessary to implement the decision of the Security Council to establish the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).
3. The task before the Committee was similar to the one the Committee had carried out in connection with the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and it must be carried out with the same caution and urgency.
4. Mr. GOMEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, Controller) said that the estimated cost of UNIIMOG operations during its six-months mandate came to \$75.6 million gross (\$73.8 million net). The breakdown of expenditures could be found in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/244/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).
5. In his report on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) (S/20093), the Secretary-General had recommended that the costs of UNIIMOG should be considered as expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter. He had also recommended that the assessments to be levied to finance UNIIMOG operations be credited to a special account which would be established for that purpose. Finally, it should be noted that, should the mandate of UNIIMOG be renewed, the cost of operations during the first 12 months of the mandate would come to some \$122 million.
6. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) would be composed of 350 military observers, 735 military personnel performing other duties and 351 civilian personnel. It was estimated that the costs for such personnel for six months (from 9 August 1988 to 9 February 1989) would be \$75.6 million gross (\$73.8 million net).
7. Given the urgency of the situation, there was not enough time to convene a resumed session. He therefore recommended that the General Assembly should approve an appropriation large enough to allow UNIIMOG to initiate and carry on its operations until the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly had completed an in-depth review of the Group's financing.

(Mr. Mselle)

8. On the basis of the information furnished by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Chairman of ACABQ believed that a sum of \$35.7 million gross (\$35 million net) would be enough to enable the Group to initiate and carry on its operations until early October 1988. That sum included the \$3.7 million referred to in paragraph 3 of document A/42/244/Add.1, which had already been authorized, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 42/227.

9. The Secretary-General should be requested to submit a report to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, by 1 October 1988, giving an account of the experience of UNIIMOG up to that point. On that basis, the General Assembly could make such appropriations as it deemed appropriate for the continuation of operations until the end of the six-month period of the approved mandate of UNIIMOG, and it could decide, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee, on the procedure for the commitment of funds with prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee for such subsequent periods as the Security Council might in the future approve.

10. In his report, the Secretary-General should indicate to what extent economies of scale and other savings could be made if UNIIMOG operations were co-ordinated as fully as possible with other United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General should also provide information on the status of voluntary contributions, the role of which could be examined by the Advisory Committee in the context of the Secretary-General's report.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, having consulted the other members of the Bureau, he had concluded that the draft resolution on the item which he was to submit to the Committee for approval should be drafted on the basis of informal consultations and that it should be patterned on the resolution establishing the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and reflect the ideas which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had just expressed.

12. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) asked whether the estimates contained in document A/42/244/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 were based on experience acquired in connection with similar United Nations operations, or whether the calculations had been made without reference to such information.

13. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) asked what method had been used to arrive at the cost estimate of \$35.7 million gross for the first months of UNIIMOG's mandate referred to by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

14. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked whether the method to be used in calculating the assessments to be levied on Member States to finance UNIIMOG operations would be similar to that used for UNIFIL. He also asked for specific information regarding when UNIIMOG personnel would be sent to the conflict area and whether all the economy measures proposed by the United Nations in recent years had been taken into account in calculating the costs.

15. Mr. AKIMOTO (Japan), emphasized the importance of voluntary contributions for the success of the UNIIOMG mission. If the costs of UNIIOMG were to be financed entirely through assessments that would lessen the function of voluntary contributions in such operations, since countries that were prepared to make voluntary contributions would cease to consider them necessary; it would therefore be much more difficult to obtain such contributions.

16. The Government of Japan attached the utmost importance to peace-keeping operations and had already contributed \$10 million to such operations in the context of the Iran-Iraq conflict. It was important to clarify the relationship between assessments and voluntary contributions in the context of peace-keeping operations so as to obtain the greatest possible number of voluntary contributions.

17. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the representative of Japan, said that the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly in October through the Advisory Committee would include information concerning voluntary contributions already received by the United Nations for UNIIOMG. The Committee would at that time consider the issue of funds needed to maintain the Force beyond October and the issue of voluntary contributions, their function and how to approach them in relation to the assessments determined by means of a special scale of assessments. He suggested that consideration of any changes in or amendments to the scale of assessments to be used in apportioning the \$35 million meant for UNIIOMG should be postponed.

18. Mr. GOMEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, Controller), replying to the question put by the representative of Canada, said that the Mission budget had been drawn up on the basis of past experience acquired in similar operations. At the same time he stressed the importance of direct experience and said that, in order to take that into account, it had been agreed, in consultation with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, that a report should be submitted in six or seven weeks to adjust or correct the estimates in the light of immediate experience.

19. He pointed out, by way of example, that when the UNIIOMG budget was drawn up the number of military personnel needed for the signal communications unit had been estimated at 375. However, the country which was generously going to supply the signal communications personnel considered that that figure was too low. It had therefore been necessary to increase to 495 the estimate given in document A/42/244/Add.1).

20. Replying to the question put by the representative of Kenya, he said that, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and with the countries which were going to make contributions, it had been concluded that the Mission would be able to operate on the basis of the sum indicated by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, namely \$35.7 million gross (\$35 million net), until the next report was submitted.

21. With regard to the scale of assessments and the relationship between assessments and voluntary contributions, he confirmed that it was expected that the method to be used would be similar to that used for UNIFIL.

(Mr. Gomez)

22. Replying to a question from the representative of India, he said that decisions concerning the deployment of military personnel were the responsibility of the military commander in consultation with the Governments concerned.
23. Concerning the clarification requested by Japan, he said that the Secretary-General would welcome an opportunity to review the issue of the financing of peace-keeping operations with the Advisory Committee and Member States. Such a review would be extremely timely since it appeared that the United Nations might, in the near future, have to undertake large-scale peace-keeping operations which would involve considerable expense. The experience gained with UNIFIL had provided the Secretary-General with a mechanism for accepting and immediately utilizing the voluntary contributions intended for UNIIMOG.
24. Mr. BOUR (France) said that he agreed with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. For the time being, it was impossible to undertake an in-depth review of voluntary contributions and the scale of assessments. Those issues would have to be considered in detail during the forty-third session of the General Assembly. He asked whether the Mission would be able to operate until the beginning of October with the proposed amount (\$35 million). That would give the Fifth Committee enough time to meet and discuss the issue in depth.
25. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he did not think that UNIIMOG would be short of funds. If the Secretariat had thought that the initial amount might be insufficient it would have informed him. If the Advisory Committee received the report of the Secretary-General in good time and was able to make recommendations to the Fifth Committee, the latter would be able to consider the issues raised in the report promptly and make additional appropriations. For the time being it would be better to stick to the recommendations already made and to the draft resolution to be submitted by the Chairman. It should be remembered that, even if no immediate decision was taken, the Fifth Committee could always adopt interim solutions to ensure the smooth functioning of UNIIMOG. He recommended that further consideration of the issue be postponed until October.

The meeting rose at noon.