



FIFTH COMMITTEE
33rd meeting
held on
Thursday, 17 November 1988
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. OKEYO (Kenya)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 147: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP
(continued) (A/43/696 and 768)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that an informal paper indicating the status of contributions to the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was available in the room. The same information had been published in document ST/ADM/SER.B/303.
2. Mr. NYGARD (United States of America) said that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peace-keeping forces constituted recognition of the constructive role the Organization could play in promoting world peace. His delegation strongly supported UNIIMOG.
3. His Government welcomed the submission by the Secretary-General of revised estimates of \$58.7 million for the initial mandate period as being some \$17 million lower than the original estimates. Cost consciousness in such major new undertakings was important. The reductions had been possible as a result of modifications in the initial plans for the phasing-in of civilian and military personnel and the phasing-out of the military signals unit. The Advisory Committee had identified savings of 10 per cent of the amount requested by the Secretary-General, a reduction that could be achieved without sacrificing effectiveness. On the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, he supported the additional funding requested for UNIIMOG.
4. In view of the possible expansion of peace-keeping operations, he agreed with the Advisory Committee that detailed consideration must be given to achieving economies of scale. The means of financing such operations should also be reviewed, with the establishment of mechanisms permitting partial funding through voluntary contributions, in cash and in kind, thus reducing the burden of assessments on Member States. He endorsed the ACABQ recommendation for a modification of the existing rules so as to allow voluntary contributions to be treated as current income and thus to be applied against future assessments. In that connection, the \$11 million in cash thus far received for UNIIMOG should be taken into account in calculating assessments on Member States for the next mandate period.
5. Voluntary contributions in kind could be as important as cash in minimizing the potential costs of peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General, as recommended by ACABQ, should formulate technical guidelines for valuating supplies and services.
6. The proposed modifications would not make peace-keeping operations dependent upon voluntary contributions because, if such contributions were not available, the full costs of the operations would be met through assessed contributions. A workable solution for the treatment of voluntary contributions should be found that would benefit all Member States.

7. Dame Ann HERCUS (New Zealand) said that the Committee's discussion of the financing of peace-keeping operations in general was timely given their dramatic expansion. As new forces were deployed, the overall cost of the operations grew, so that Member States were faced with large assessments. New Zealand was a committed supporter of the Organization's role as a peacekeeper. When no other country or organization could help to end a conflict, the United Nations, with its moral authority, impartiality and proven record, could do so. Her Government paid its share of the costs of such operations willingly and was honoured to contribute its military personnel.

8. New Zealand had made a significant contribution to UNIIMOG, but was gravely concerned by the costs. Rigorous assessment of the UNIIMOG budget was essential, as was examination of the principles governing the financing of such operations. There could be no room for uncertainty given the figures involved.

9. She stressed the fundamental principle that, when a peace-keeping operation was financed under an appropriation approved by the General Assembly, the costs were to be borne by all as a Charter obligation. All Member States must pay their assessments in good time; yet a few had not met that legal responsibility. No enterprise could be operated successfully without a sound financial base; when the success of a peace-keeping operation was at stake, the payment of assessments should be a high priority.

10. While she endorsed the majority of the Advisory Committee's recommendations for possible reductions in UNIIMOG's expenses, it objected to the proposed deletion of one Professional post from the Office of the Military Adviser to the Secretary-General. The Office was under extreme pressure and could expect a further expansion of its work-load if settlements to various regional conflicts were found. She endorsed the proposal for the establishment of a working capital fund for peace-keeping activities.

11. There was a compelling need for appropriate accounting rules applicable to voluntary contributions which should be receivable in cash or in kind. She agreed with the Advisory Committee that existing procedures for the receipt of voluntary contributions should be modified and that the acceptability of such contributions should be determined after an appropriate evaluation process. The Secretary-General should formulate appropriate technical guidelines for that purpose.

12. It was for a donor Government to determine whether its contributions should be considered as current income and thus theoretically available to reduce the level of future assessments for all States, or whether it should be considered as an advance, to be used solely for reimbursing the Government's costs. The issue of voluntary contributions could not be considered in isolation from the heavy debts owed by the Organization to States that had contributed to peace-keeping operations. Those outstanding payments must be foremost in mind when ACABQ formulated general principles governing peace-keeping activities.

13. Mr. FRIESSNIGG (Austria) said that the Committee's discussion of the financing of UNIIMOG would influence the financial arrangements for future peace-keeping operations that might well undergo rapid expansion.

14. Her delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee on the need to address the broad issue of reimbursement to troop-contributing States. The current rates of reimbursement did not cover the costs incurred by Austria as one such State. In particular, the financial treatment of countries contributing officers as military observers should be reconsidered. With regard to the purchase of transport and communications equipment, the problem arose as to whether such equipment would be suitable in other operations and whether it could readily be used by forces not familiar with it. The cost of transporting such, often heavy, equipment should also be borne in mind.

15. Future operations should be financed basically from assessed contributions, voluntary cash contributions being regarded as only complementary sources of financing. The Advisory Committee's proposal to consider voluntary contributions as current income to reduce levels of assessment required further clarification and consideration. In particular, the impact of that proposal on the Secretary-General's obligation to reimburse troop-contributing countries should be explained. In the absence of further information, her delegation favoured maintaining of the current system of using voluntary cash contributions to reimburse troop-contributing countries which already bore a disproportionate share of the burden; making their position still more precarious might undermine their willingness to provide troops.

16. She agreed with the Advisory Committee on the need for guidelines for valuating supplies and services and determining their suitability. Austria was firmly committed to peace-keeping activities and trusted that a stable financial basis for such operations could be devised.

17. Mr. KAKODKAR (India) said that his Government appreciated the important role of peace-keeping operations in reducing tension and maintaining peace, and had actively supported such operations for many years. India had contributed troops on a number of occasions and had regularly paid its contributions in respect of peace-keeping; it was one of the few developing countries providing voluntary financial support to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

18. It was all the more important to ensure sound administration and financial stability and to establish a firm institutional basis and guidelines for the management of peace-keeping operations in view of their likely expansion. India appreciated the Advisory Committee's study of the arrangements proposed for UNIIMOG and, in particular, supported the recommendation for a further reduction in funding to \$53.5 million. Every effort should be made to economize in the procurement of transport and communications equipment and other supplies. The Secretary-General should keep Member States informed of his negotiations concerning the military signals unit.

(Mr. Kakoihar, Ind/a)

19. The Advisory Committee had proposed examination of the feasibility of establishing a reserve stock of communications and other equipment to be drawn upon in the initial stages of new operations. While not objecting in principle, he wondered how much notice the Secretary-General would have of the launching of such an operation, how suitable equipment would be in different operations, and how problems of wastage, storage and maintenance would be solved. India supported ACABQ's request for a study of problems relating to the "start up" of peace-keeping operations and its suggestion concerning the establishment of a working capital fund.

20. It also agreed with ACABQ that, in procuring supplies, attention should be paid to achieving economies through consolidated purchasing on the basis of international tendering. Preference should be given to countries near to the region concerned, and, wherever possible, to developing countries.

21. With regard to the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/43/768, para. 11) for a reduction in the number of civilian posts for UNIIMOG, he would welcome an explanation of how the original figure and the proposed reduction had been calculated. In future more detailed justification for budgetary estimates for peace-keeping units should be provided. With regard to the recruitment of civilian staff, India agreed with the representative of Japan that thought should be given to whether Member States could contribute technical and civilian personnel through an arrangement similar to that for military personnel.

22. His delegation did not object to the treatment of voluntary contributions as current income and the eventual deduction of such income from the total assessments levied on Member States. Contributions in kind, if they were to be applied against the assessment of a Member State, should be accepted only after strict application of all existing procurement procedures, including competitive bidding. To ensure that such an option was available to Member States, advance information should be made available as to the kinds of supplies and services needed. As proposed by ACABQ, technical guidelines for valuating supplies and services should be formulated.

23. Like UNIIMOG, future peace-keeping operations should be financed on the UNIFIL pattern, namely from special accounts. Such an arrangement appropriately reflected the special responsibilities and privileged status of the permanent members of the Security Council in sanctioning such operations. Lastly, the mandates of various United Nations peace-keeping operations were routinely extended without serious consideration of their continuing usefulness. The Security Council should take such considerations into account when extending peace-keeping mandates.

24. Mr. THOMPSON (Fiji) said that the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security was the most important function of the United Nations. His country had demonstrated its support for that function by contributing troops to the first peace-keeping operation to be set up after it joined the Organisation, it remained fully committed even though, during its 10 years of participation in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), its troops had suffered 22

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fatalities and it was still owed \$20 million in reimbursements. It was ready to participate in future peace-keeping operations if called upon to do so.

25. A thorough, detailed and technical review of peace-keeping operations should be conducted as soon as possible, to ensure that, within political mandates, they were organised and carried out in the most cost-effective manner. The review should have, but unfortunately had not, been undertaken by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. A review was warranted because the annual cost of peace-keeping was reliably forecast to rise to \$1.6 billion, around twice the annual regular budget of the Organisation.

26. His delegation understood voluntary contributions to be, by definition, outright grants. They should be used to offset the cost of operations, thus lowering assessable balance. They should not be offset against their donors' assessed contributions: if they were, a donor Government would enjoy the triple advantage of political compliments for its generosity, assessment on a reduced total, and an assessed contribution offset by its full voluntary contribution. Calling such payments "voluntary contributions" would be a misnomer and the Secretariat should clarify the matter.

27. Voluntary contributions in kind should be treated in the same manner as cash. The Secretary-General should have the prerogative to decide whether they were acceptable and helpful for reducing costs in the context of a particular operation. Some voluntary contributions in kind had apparently become liabilities.

28. In its report, the Advisory Committee had made a number of recommendations which merited consideration, but they were somewhat general and needed closer examination, perhaps during the technical review of peace-keeping operations. It was difficult to understand the rationale for the recommended reduction in Professional staff in the Office of the Military Adviser to the Secretary-General at Headquarters (A/43/768, para. 11). That Office was already understaffed, and the functions of its staff could not be attributed to individual operations. When the pressure of work was heavy and likely to rise even further, a proposal to reduce the work force seemed ill-conceived. Until it received adequate justification for the proposed reduction, his delegation would oppose that recommendation.

29. The promotion and maintenance of international peace and security was the principal mandate of the Secretary-General under the Charter, which Member States had a legal, moral and political obligation to support. In peace-keeping, more than in any other area, however, some Member States failed to fulfil their obligations. He was gravely concerned at the mounting arrears in respect of peace-keeping operations, which were borne not by the United Nations but by the troop-contributing countries: they were an unfair burden on those who paid their assessed contributions, provided troops and then had to bear the costs which others had failed to pay. With additional peace-keeping operations in the offing, the costs of which could increase fourfold, the need for compliance with the obligation to meet the costs of peace-keeping operations was compelling.

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30. He hoped the Committee would be given reasonable and acceptable explanations to the many questions raised during the discussion of the item before a decision was taken.

31. Mr. GUTIERREZ (Costa Rica) said he would not comment on the technical aspects of the two reports before the Committee because they referred to things military: having decided 40 years previously to abolish the army as a permanent institution, Costa Rica neither had nor wished to have any experience of such matters. It did feel some concern, however, at the contradiction between the current policy of budget-cutting and the demand for new peace-keeping forces to help in resolving regional conflicts. The Organisation's economic straits had engendered a greater sense of reality, and even though the budgetary restraint being applied was affecting opportunities to help the underdeveloped countries, it was helping the Organisation to weather the crisis.

32. On the other hand, efforts to bring about peace in a series of regional conflicts had borne fruit in 1988. The initial agreements reached between warring factions depended on a combination of factors which only the United Nations could offer, the most important of those being peace-keeping forces. The creation of peace-keeping forces was an expanding function of the Organization and enhanced its prestige, but in strictly budgetary terms the expansion might be viewed with concern. Paradoxically, no State would count the cost during a war, but the Fifth Committee was questioning the price of peace-making. Member States should be glad to pay the costs of bringing peace to any part of the world. War was expensive, not only for the warring parties but for all States. The costs included contamination of the planet, widespread economic disruption, and a high toll in lives and injuries.

33. His country, which had no ties to either side, had always regarded the Iran-Iraq conflict as an illustration of the futility of violence. The joy at the Security Council's announcement of a cease-fire must be followed by addressing the obligations of supervising the cease-fire and consolidating peace. The international community should be grateful to those States whose economic position enabled them to make voluntary contributions. All States, however, large and small, should recognize that restrictions on spending must not hinder the United Nations in its primary task. Peace-keeping forces must be properly managed; but the Organization must be ready to provide them whenever they were needed.

AGENDA ITEM 114: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989 (continued)

Programme budget implications of the recommendations in document A/43/24 (Part II) concerning agenda item 29 (A/C.5/43/34 and Add.1)

34. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's statement of programme implications (A/C.5/43/34) and the observations of the Committee on Conferences (A/C.5/43/34/Add.1) should be read in conjunction with document A/AC.131/296, a report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council for Namibia on the

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estimated costs of its proposed activities for 1989 in comparison with the provisions made in the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

35. The draft programme of the Council for 1989 was a continuation of that for 1988; no account had been taken of recent developments suggesting that a formula might be found for Namibian independence. The Advisory Committee had been informed that, should independence be achieved, the necessary adjustments would be made to the work programme. The Secretary-General estimated the cost of the draft programme for 1989 at \$5,898,600 exclusive of conference-servicing costs. The figure of \$6,269,400 given in annex I to that document had been calculated on a full-cost basis. The provisions under sections 3C and 27 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 amounted to \$6,613,300.

36. The total requirements for 1989 included an allocation of \$1.5 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia and \$500,000 in support of the Council's programme of co-operation with non-governmental organisations. Those amounts were unchanged from the programme of activities for 1988. The Secretary-General also proposed a grant of \$447,000 to the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), as against \$429,200 in 1988.

37. He had made known the views of the Advisory Committee on the recommended upgrading of the post of Secretary of the Council of Namibia to the D-2 level (A/C.5/43/34, para. 20) at the twenty-third meeting of the Fifth Committee.

38. The Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 28 of document A/C.5/43/34 that no additional cost would be incurred under section 29 (Conference Services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. On the other hand, the proposal to hold meetings away from Headquarters would require an exception to General Assembly resolution 42/243, and the preparation of verbatim transcripts of the Council's meetings would require an exception to resolution 37/14 C.

39. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the estimates presented by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/43/34. It recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that adoption of the recommendations in document A/43/24 (Part II) would not require any additional appropriation under sections 3C, 27 or 29 of the programme budget.

40. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that, once again, the Committee's consideration of the budgetary implications of General Assembly resolutions relating to Namibia was likely to be cursory and superficial. He hoped it would be the last time that the implications of resolutions on Namibia would have to be discussed, and called on the Secretariat to provide documentation on other budgetary implications in good time.

41. The Council proposed to hold plenary meetings away from Headquarters, at a cost of \$1.3 million, but there was no indication that the additional costs

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involved would be met by the host Governments concerned. The Secretary-General did not even indicate what the extra costs would be. That information should be provided.

42. His delegation was against waiving resolution 37/14 C for the purpose of allowing the Council verbatim transcripts of its meetings: the additional expenditure was unlikely to provide tangible benefits. The decision taken by the Committee on the proposal to upgrade the post of Secretary of the Council from D-1 to D-2 would not in any way prejudice his delegation's position on the revised estimates as a whole.

43. In the light of recent developments on the Namibian question, his delegation doubted the utility of many of the activities proposed and considered that they should not be implemented. It expected the second performance report to indicate savings from that part of the programme.

44. The United States was opposed to any direct support for the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), especially in the form of a block grant for activities which SWAPO itself considered necessary. It also opposed the \$1.5 million "temporary" subsidy to the United Nations Trust Fund for Namibia. That such a subsidy was needed indicated a lack of support on the part of Member States.

45. He would not insist on a vote on the Secretary-General's estimates, but that should not be interpreted to mean support for the programme. The ultimate objective was to eliminate the programmes relating to Namibia from the regular budget, and he hoped that the Council would assist in pursuing it.

46. Mr. LAWSON (Sierra Leone) said that he, too, hoped that the discussion of such matters would not be a perennial exercise in the Committee. He looked forward to discussing the admission of Namibia to full membership of the United Nations.

47. He would accept the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, but wondered whether, in endorsing the Secretary-General's estimates, the Committee would also be approving reclassification of the post of Secretary of the Council from D-1 to D-2.

48. Mr. JEMAIL (Tunisia) said that recent news reports indicated that past action by the United Nations in support of Namibian independence had been effective. The United Nations could not, however, work on a basis of speculation. The Council for Namibia must be able to carry on working in accordance with an established programme. The recommendations in document A/43/24 (Part II) therefore deserved support.

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the proposed reclassification of the post of Secretary of the Council had been taken up in the context of chapter 4 of document A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1.

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He understood that informal consultations on the revised estimates were still in progress.

50. Mr. DUVAL (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) said that the information requested by the representative of the United States was readily available, in respect of conference services, in annexes II and III of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/43/34). The cost of the substantive servicing of meetings held away from Headquarters was not so clear, because there would also be additional costs if the meetings were held at Headquarters. The Secretariat would pursue the matter and report back at a later meeting.

51. Mr. LAWSON (Sierra Leone) said that it was hard to understand why the Committee should take a two-part decision on the post reclassification which was part of the programme approved by the Council for Namibia for 1989. He therefore proposed that it should take a decision on the reclassification at the current meeting.

52. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that, in accordance with its normal procedure, the Committee had to transmit to the General Assembly its opinion on the financial and administrative implications of the Council's resolutions, which the General Assembly was to take up that afternoon. Unless the Committee took a decision on the financial and administrative implications at the current meeting, the General Assembly would be unable to act.

53. Mr. UPTON (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), said that the reclassification proposal should be taken up in the context of the revised estimates. It was not appropriate for the Committee to take a decision on a matter which was a prerogative of the Secretary-General rather than of the Council.

54. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the issue had arisen because of the proposal to merge the functions of the Secretary of the Council for Namibia and the Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Namibia in the context of implementation of the recommendations of the Group of High-Level Intergovernmental Experts. The Secretary-General had reported to the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 42/211, but the Council did not agree to the merger. The Secretary-General had also reported to the General Assembly (A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1/Add.1) on the Council's decision and had recalled the previous proposal to reclassify the post of Secretary-General of the Council from D-1 to D-2. The Advisory Committee had considered the matter and had reported to the Fifth Committee at its 23rd meeting in the context of chapter IV of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/43/1/Rev.1).

55. There were two ways of proceeding: either the Committee could assume that endorsement by the plenary Assembly of paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's statement would entail endorsement of the reclassification proposal, in which case the Committee would take a decision at the present meeting; or it could inform the

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General Assembly that the proposed reclassification would be considered in the context of the revised estimates and that the Committee's opinion would then be communicated to the Assembly.

56. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) agreed that there were two ways of proceeding, but the point was that the plenary Assembly was discussing the question directly and that for that purpose required a statement on financial and administrative implications from the Committee.

57. Mr. BOUR (France) said that, as paragraph 18 made no mention of a post reclassification, its adoption by the plenary Assembly would not prejudice any decision to be taken in the context of the revised estimates. The two questions should therefore be treated separately. In any event, the regrading of posts fell within the competence of the Secretary-General.

58. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States) said that the proposal by the representative of Sierra Leone that the Committee should take a decision immediately on the reclassification amounted to a new proposal. The Committee would have to consider it under rule 120 of the rules of procedure, which required proposals to be submitted in writing 24 hours in advance of their discussion. That would create problems for the consideration of the question by the plenary Assembly. The second of the two procedures suggested by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee was preferable. If the Committee decided on a different procedure, his delegation would require time to consult its authorities in Washington.

59. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) said that the proposal by the representative of Sierra Leone did not amount to a new proposal: it was more a matter of clarifying the situation. Endorsement of paragraph 18 by the plenary Assembly would not close the reclassification issue. It would therefore be better for the Committee to consider the proposed reclassification in the context of the revised estimates and to take an immediate decision on the other aspect of the question.

60. Mr. ABOLY (Côte d'Ivoire) agreed with the representative of Cameroon that the plenary Assembly could not take a decision on the Council's resolution until the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee had reported on the financial and administrative implications. The Committee should therefore decide on those implications at the current meeting.

61. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that his delegation did not agree that the rules of procedure should be applied to the Sierra Leone proposal, for the Committee could simply decide to consider the two aspects of the question jointly or separately. The financial and administrative implications did not affect the efficiency with which the occupant of the post discharged his duties. The Committee should limit itself to those implications and not become involved in matters of efficiency. He therefore appealed to the representative of Sierra Leone to withdraw his proposal, on the understanding that the Committee would take the matter up under the revised estimates.

62. Mr. LAWSON (Sierra Leone) said that his proposal was not a new one but arose from the discussion of the Secretary-General's statement. The Committee merely had to decide which of the two possible procedures to follow.

63. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General and the recommendations of ACABQ and the Committee on Conferences, and in the light of the current discussion, the Committee should inform the plenary Assembly if it adopted draft resolutions A to E in the report of the Council for Namibia to the General Assembly (A/43/24, Part II), no modification in the programme of work for 1988-1989, as proposed in the revised estimates for sections 3C, 27 and 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, would be required, and furthermore, no additional resources over and above those already proposed under those sections in the context of the revised estimates for the 1988-1989 programme budget would be required to accommodate the 1989 programme of activities of the Council.

64. He further suggested that the Committee should inform the plenary Assembly that the reclassification of a D-1 post to D-2 would be taken up in the context of the revised estimates for section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

65. Lastly, the Committee should draw the Assembly's attention to the report of the Committee on Conferences, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/10 A, paragraph 6.

66. It was so decided.

67. Mr. RALLIS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said that the Twelve had joined the consensus on the decision just adopted because they supported the international community's goal of bringing about the independence of Namibia at the earliest possible date. They stressed once again their full, constant and unequivocal support for the settlement plan endorsed by Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and called upon South Africa to implement the plan immediately and without pre-conditions.

68. The Twelve had reservations, however, on certain aspects of the decision's administrative and budgetary implications. They had in mind in particular the proposal that the Council should hold extraordinary plenary meetings away from its headquarters, contrary to General Assembly resolution 40/243. They considered, furthermore, that the request for the provision of verbatim records was inconsistent with General Assembly resolution 41/177 D. With regard to the Council's proposal to upgrade the post of the Secretary of the Council from D-1 to D-2, the Twelve noted the views expressed by the Secretary-General and ACABQ and recalled that it was the Secretary-General's prerogative to make such proposals. Similarly, proposals for budgetary appropriations should be put forward in conformity with the Financial Regulations and Rules.

69. Ms. KINGSMILL (Australia) said that as a member of the Council for Namibia, Australia was an unquestioned supporter of Namibian independence. It had therefore joined in the consensus on the decision despite its concern about some specific aspects of the draft resolutions. Some progress had been made in containing overall costs, but she remained concerned about some of the administrative and financial implications of the Council's proposals. For example, she was not convinced that it was necessary to hold a plenary meeting of the Council in Latin America. If such a meeting were to be held away from Headquarters, she trusted that the host Government would meet any additional costs. Her delegation would make its views known on the question of reclassification of the post of Secretary of the Council in the context of the revised estimate.

70. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that the only way in which the international community had been able to show its support for an independent Namibia had been through the activities of the Council. A number of exceptions to the general rules had been made in its favour but such deviations were justified. Namibia was a United Nations responsibility and all regions should have an opportunity to hear its voice through the Council. The Council should therefore be permitted to hold meetings away from Headquarters.

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.2/43/L.11 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/43/32)

71. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the programme budget implications of the draft decision in document A/C.2/43/L.11 concerning the inclusion of Mozambique in the list of least developed countries (A/C.5/43/32).

72. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement of programme budget implications and had no objection to the additional appropriation of \$39,000 requested under section 1 of the programme budget.

73. Mr. HOH (United States of America) said that he had no objection to the Committee's taking a decision on the matter without a vote. He did not question the judgement of the Economic and Social Council in including Mozambique in the list of least developed countries and had indeed joined in the consensus. The United States already enjoyed friendly relations with Mozambique and looked forward to closer ties and to a bilateral relationship marked by increased co-operation in economic and social development. There was, however, an administrative and budgetary issue involved. His delegation believed that the United Nations was best served by a policy of zero real growth in its budget. It was not convinced that every effort had been made to absorb the estimated additional costs and considered, furthermore, that costs that were unabsorbable should be offset through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas, the modification of existing activities, or deferral until a later biennium, as provided in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

74. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/43/32) and the recommendation of ACABQ, the Committee should inform the plenary Assembly that, if it approved the draft decision in document A/C.2/43/L.11, an additional appropriation of \$39,000 would be required under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

75. It was so decided.

76. Mr. SALES (Mozambique) thanked the Committee for its unanimous support of the decision suggested by the Chairman, and also ACABQ and the Secretariat for their efforts on behalf of Mozambique.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.19 concerning agenda item 93 (A/C.5/43/35)

77. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Secretary-General's statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.19) on preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (A/C.5/43/35).

78. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that ACABQ had considered the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications and had determined that the amount involved was small enough to be contained through the redeployment of existing resources. The Advisory Committee's view was that the request to the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources for the preparation of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, including its regional preparatory meetings, should be fully implemented, but it did not at the current stage recommend an additional appropriation. If necessary, that would be done in the second performance report to be submitted to the United Nations at its forty-fourth session.

79. Mr. UPTON (United Kingdom) concurred in the Advisory Committee's conclusion that the amount requested should be obtained through redeployment or the curtailment of other activities.

80. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its tenth session had requested the Secretary-General to emphasize to the General Assembly the urgency of providing the necessary additional resources, including temporary assistance and travel for the Secretary-General of the Eighth Congress and additional staff members of the Secretariat, to service the regional preparatory meetings to be held in 1989. In paragraph 8 of the statement of programme budget implications, the estimated requirements were for the travel and subsistence of the Secretary-General of the Congress only. He noted that paragraph 10 of the Third Committee's draft resolution (A/C.3/43/L.19) requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources for the preparation of the Eighth Congress, including its regional preparatory meetings. He asked how the travel costs of the additional staff were to be accommodated.

81. Mr. RWAMBUYA (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) said that when General Assembly resolution 42/59 had been adopted, endorsing the recommendations relating to the preparation of the Eighth United Nations Congress contained in the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council in May 1987, the Secretary-General of the Congress had not been appointed. After his appointment, the resources available for the preparation of the Congress were reconsidered and found to be adequate, save for the travel of the Secretary-General of the Congress to the regional preparatory meetings. The only additional appropriation requested, therefore, was for the travel and subsistence of the Secretary-General of the Congress.

82. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that before any decision was taken, he would like to be assured that all travel costs could be absorbed within available resources.

83. Mr. RWAMBUYA (Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) said that provision had been made in the 1988-1989 programme budget for the additional staff required to prepare for the Eighth Congress. After the original amount requested had been cut by the Advisory Committee, the sum available was the minimum required. The substantive departments had asked for more after the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Congress, and after renegotiation it had been agreed that the provision in the budget would cover requirements save for the extra \$16,200.

84. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement of programme implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/43/35) and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Committee, should inform the General Assembly that if it adopted the draft resolution in document A/C.3/43/L.19, no additional appropriation would be required at the current stage under section 4, part B, Special conferences, of the 1988-1989 programme budget.

85. It was so decided.

Emoluments of the members of the International Court of Justice: seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/43/7/Add.6)

86. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the current system governing the emoluments of the members of the International Court of Justice provided for their review every five years. Between those reviews, the emoluments were adjusted by means of a cost-of-living supplement, calculated by reference to the simple arithmetic average of post-adjustment classifications at 52 duty stations, including The Hague (the APA index). The last review had been carried out in 1985, at the fortieth session of the General Assembly. The emoluments had been set then at \$82,000 a year plus a cost-of-living allowance of \$3,000 a year, to take effect on 1 January 1986.

(Mr. Maella)

87. Because of the movement of the APA index since 1986, those emoluments stood at \$95,000 a year - \$82,000 plus a cost-of-living supplement of \$13,800, giving a total annual compensation of \$95,800. The next review was due at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 1990. However, as the Advisory Committee indicated in paragraph 6 of its report, the current procedure for calculating the cost-of-living supplement did not compensate totally for the downward variation of the emoluments in local currency when the dollar weakened. When members of the Advisory Committee had travelled to The Hague in 1988 to hold an exchange of views with the members of the International Court of Justice, concern had been expressed about the adverse effect of the declining dollar. In its report, the Advisory Committee recalled the decision of the General Assembly to introduce a local-currency floor and ceiling for the salaries of officials of the United Nations and members of the common system. The Advisory Committee had concluded, therefore, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report, that consideration should be given to supplementing the current interim adjustment procedure by extending the application of local-currency floor (or ceiling) measures to the Judges' emoluments in order to protect them in the event of a weakening of the dollar between the normal reviews. If that proposal was accepted, the arrangement would come into force on 1 January 1989, it being understood that it would be reviewed in 1990 in the context of the next scheduled comprehensive review.

88. The Advisory Committee's proposals in regard to the currency floor and ceiling were set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report. Paragraph 11 detailed the financial implications. If the current exchange rate of the dollar to the guilder was maintained from 1 January 1989 to the end of the year, the additional payments for all Judges would total \$73,800. The Advisory Committee did not propose an additional appropriation but recommended that the additional expenditure incurred should be reported by the Secretary-General in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 1988-1989.

89. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend to the plenary Assembly, that it should approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as set forth in paragraphs 8 to 11 of its report (A/43/7/Add.6).

90. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.