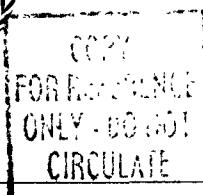


United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

*Official Records**



FIFTH COMMITTEE
20th meeting
held on
Thursday, 27 October 1983
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUYAMA (Japan)

later: Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 109 AND 110: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (A/38/3, A/38/6, A/38/7, A/38/38) (continued)

First reading (continued)

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination (continued)

1. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) apologized for the error he had made when commenting at a previous meeting on the figure for hospitality. The amount cited should have been \$300,000 rather than \$3 million.

Section 2A. Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's recommended reductions in the estimates for policy-making organs and the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs were explained in paragraphs 2A.3, 2A.5, 2A.7, 2A.9 and 2A.21 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/38/7). The amounts requested by the Secretary-General were not large in themselves, but the Advisory Committee had experienced some difficulty in eliciting an adequate explanation of the inclusion of some of the amounts requested and certain of the increases. It had accordingly recommended the deletion of the sum requested for travel of representatives and the amount of \$2,500 for consultants for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The proposed increase in the request relating to the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council had not, in its opinion, been sufficiently justified and it had therefore recommended that the estimate should be reduced by \$17,200 to \$30,000 for 1984-1985. It had further considered that not sufficient justification had been provided for the proposed reclassification of the post of Head of the Outer Space Affairs Division. It had also not been persuaded of the need to convert consultant funds in order to establish a D-1 post. The Advisory Committee always took a very strict approach to the conversion of consultant funds to established posts and had felt that allowing that procedure in the case of the Outer Space Affairs Division could create an unfortunate precedent.

3. The Advisory Committee's other observations on section 2 A, given in paragraphs 2A.17 to 2A.20 of its report, related to the estimates for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Committee had made a searching examination of the proposal to transfer seven posts (four Professional and three General Service) from extrabudgetary funding to the regular budget. It was noted in paragraph 2A.19 that the General Assembly had decided in resolution 3331 B (XXIX) that all UNRWA international staff posts should be funded from the regular budget. However, the international posts in question had been established and funded from extrabudgetary resources after General Assembly resolution 3331 (XXIX) had been adopted. The Committee had felt that the procedure followed was not wholly satisfactory. For the reasons explained

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(Mr. Mselle)

in its report, the Advisory Committee had approached the request on the basis that it was a proposal for the establishment of new posts and not for a transfer. after taking into account the functions that the posts would perform, it had recommended acceptance of the field posts but not all of the proposed increase in the Vienna establishment. The Advisory Committee had been informed that, in addition to the international posts indicated in the budget estimates, UNRWA employed about 17,000 area staff, some of them at UNRWA headquarters, Vienna. In its view, it would be prudent to strengthen the field offices but to be conservative regarding any increase in the administrative establishment in Vienna. It therefore recommended that the proposed P-4 post for Vienna and two of the General Service posts should not be accepted. In paragraph 2A.21 it recommended that the functions of the additional P-4 and two General Service staff at Vienna should be carried out by redeployment.

4. For section 2 A as a whole the Advisory Committee recommended reductions totalling \$296,400.

5. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the recommendations of CPC relating to section 2 A of the budget estimates. The recommendations in paragraphs 138 and 139 of part I of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/38/38) on chapter 25 of the proposed medium-term plan (Marine affairs) had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1983/48.

6. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had already expressed its objection of principle to the inclusion in the medium-term plan of new programmes financed from the regular budget. He wished to reaffirm that objection.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, as there were no further comments, he would assume that it was the Committee's wish to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination in paragraphs 138 and 139 of its report.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN invited general comments on section 2 A of the budget estimates.

10. Mr. MERIEUX (France) said that his delegation was in favour of approving the estimates in section 2A of the budget estimates with the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee. It endorsed particularly the ACABQ remarks about UNRWA's request for the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget. He wished to revert, however, to a procedural matter. Paragraph 2A.44 of the proposed programme budget made it clear that the amount included under the subsection Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea was provisional, pending action by the General Assembly on the basis of the Secretary-General's report on the meeting of the Preparatory Commission. In the circumstances, the Fifth Committee should perhaps not consider subsection C until further information was available.

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11. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had no problem with the bulk of the requests under section 2A, but there were a few items to which it could not agree. His delegation had already stated its objection to the funding from the regular budget of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority, a body to which not all United Nations Members belonged. It was not clear from paragraphs 2A.45 and 2A.46 of document A/38/6 what proportion of the budget and staffing of the Office of the Special Representative in fact constituted substantive support for the Preparatory Commission.

12. With regard to UNRWA, he noted that the Advisory Committee had not fully supported the Secretary-General regarding the transfer of a number of externally funded posts to the regular budget. Instead, the Advisory Committee had recommended the creation of four additional established posts. The United States would like an assurance that that creation of posts would be offset by the termination of an equal number of extrabudgetary posts rather than their redeployment to other duties. He also noted that JIU had prepared a report on UNRWA (JIU/REP/83/8) and wondered when the Fifth Committee would review its conclusions and the comments of the Secretary-General. He understood that the report was to be considered also by the Special Political Committee. The JIU's examination of administrative, programme and personnel issues would clearly be of interest to the Fifth Committee.

13. Regarding paragraph 2A.21, he said that his delegation was concerned at the under-utilization of the staff assigned to deal with the question of the arms embargo against South Africa. The Security Council Committee on that question met rarely and little substantive work was performed. He hoped that the Secretary-General would respond to the Advisory Committee's reiterated recommendation in paragraph 2A.6 of its report that he should examine whether all the related temporary posts needed to be continued.

14. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that his delegation had already referred, in its statement in the general debate, to the excessive use of consultants. He noted that requests were made in paragraphs 2A.16 and 2A.26 for consultants to provide specialized assistance in the preparation of studies relating to international peace and to gather and analyse information on approaches to peace. He wondered what kind of recruitment policy the United Nations could be following if the permanent staff was not capable of performing precisely the kind of task for which the Organization was founded. In the circumstances, he did not feel that the requests were appropriate.

15. Mr. MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) endorsed the French delegation's suggestion that the Committee should wait for further details before discussing the estimates relating to the Law of the Sea, contained in paragraphs 2A.43 to 2A.48 of the proposed programme budget.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that in the light of the comments by the representatives of France, the United States and the Republic of Cameroon on subsection C, he proposed that the estimates in question should be voted on at a later stage.

17. It was so decided.

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18. The CHAIRMAN suggested in connection with subsection E that the JIU report on UNRWA should go first to the Special Political Committee, pending the receipt by the Fifth Committee of the Secretary-General's comments on it.

19. It was so decided.

20. The CHAIRMAN noted that there were no further comments on subsection A. He invited comments on subsection B.

21. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that his delegation had no difficulty in accepting the recommendations of CPC and ACABQ on subsection B, Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. He noted, however, in connection with paragraph 2A.12 of the budget estimates, on the Section for Co-ordination and Political Information, that the Fifth Committee had already approved the recommendation in paragraph 1.49 for a new post of Press Officer for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. CPC had drawn attention to a possible duplication of work, in paragraph 28 of part II of its report. He wondered whether, as a result of the new post approved under section 1, any saving could be achieved in respect of paragraph 2A.12.

22. In connection with paragraph 2A.21, he noted that in the last biennium the Security Council Committee on the arms embargo against South Africa had held only two meetings. He hoped that the Secretary-General would accept the Advisory Committee's recommendation and redeploy the temporary staff.

23. Turning to section 2A.E, he said that his delegation had no difficulty in accepting the estimates for UNRWA. In connection with the JIU report with which the Fifth Committee would be dealing at a later stage, however, he said that his delegation attached great importance to UNRWA's work of providing assistance to refugees and he recalled that Japan had over many years contributed substantially to it and had participated in the Working Group on financing. One of UNRWA's weaknesses was that it was difficult for it to forecast what resources would be available for the coming year. His delegation had reservations regarding several of the JIU recommendations, but it endorsed the suggestion that there should be a clearer and more precise system of budget presentation. In the interests of sound management, it was essential to have a more realistic forecast of resources. His delegation would therefore be glad of an explanation from the representative of the Secretary-General regarding the estimated extrabudgetary resources, totalling over \$539 million shown in table 2A.41. That represented a \$40 million increase over the current biennium and he wondered whether it was a truly realistic figure.

24. With regard to the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget of UNRWA, proposed in paragraph 2A.74 of the programme budget, his delegation supported the view of the Advisory Committee that there was no transfer involved, but rather the establishment of new posts. If the Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved, there would be a reduction in expenditure met from voluntary funding and an increase in amounts charged to the regular budget, an occurrence which his delegation would find it hard to accept in principle. Furthermore, it was not entirely clear whether the increase in posts was justified. A clarification from the Secretary-General would be welcome.

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25. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the Advisory Committee, at the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, had requested a re-examination of the status of the posts referred to in paragraph 2A.21 of the current programme budget proposals. He wished to know whether such an exercise had been carried out, and what the results had been.

26. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that he would like clarification of paragraph 2A.19, item 1.9, relating to the Peace Observation Commission. It seemed from the proposed programme budget that no resources had been provided for the Commission. He failed to understand how the Fifth Committee could report to the General Assembly without making recommendations on resources. Since CPC had recommended that the Commission's activities should be terminated, a recommendation which had been accepted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, it seemed odd that there was a reference to the Commission in the budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

27. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the reference in the programme budget to the Peace Observation Commission should be deleted, in view of the decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. On the question of the proposed transfer of extrabudgetary posts at UNRWA, referred to in paragraph 2A.74, his delegation did not agree with the Advisory Committee's interpretation, since for reasons of principle it was opposed to the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget. In general, however, the Soviet delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations on that section of the budget.

28. Mr. KELLER (United States of America), referring to the proposed transfer of extrabudgetary posts at UNRWA, said that if the four posts referred to in the second sentence of paragraph 2A.21 of the Advisory Committee's report were transferred, a corresponding number of extrabudgetary posts should cease to exist. Unless those extrabudgetary posts were eliminated, the so-called transfer would in fact lead to the creation of new posts.

29. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that a need had arisen at UNRWA in the early 1980s for additional staff. The posts had been funded from extrabudgetary resources on the understanding that a request would be made for their inclusion in the regular budget for the following biennium. As it happened, that biennium had been a period of zero growth. The question was thus not simply one of transferring posts from extrabudgetary funding to the regular budget.

30. With regard to the question raised by the representative of Japan concerning the P-4 post in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and whether it might represent a duplication of existing functions, he said that the post required the ability to synthesize information coming in from various sources to enable the Secretary-General to remain abreast of current developments. There was thus no overlap with existing posts.

31. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division), referring to the resource requirements for the Security Council Committee on the arms embargo against South Africa, said that more detail had been presented in that section of the budget than before in response to questions raised by delegations in the previous budget exercise. The question of resources was still under scrutiny by the Secretary-General, who would take action on the basis of recent experience. With respect to the Peace Observation Commission, the matter would be considered again by the General Assembly at the current session, in view of which it had been decided to refer to it in the proposed budget, but to make it clear that no resources were required. If the General Assembly decided to discontinue the Commission, then that would end the matter.

32. With regard to the questions concerning UNRWA, he said that it was difficult to provide realistic figures in every case. The Budget Division had attempted to provide figures for UNRWA which would offer a reasonable guide. With respect to the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the requests for consultants in paragraphs 2A.16 and 2A.26 were fairly modest and were justified given the delicacy of the duties involved.

33. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Assembly had already considered the matter of the Peace Observation Commission and had decided to abolish it. The programme element concerned would thus automatically disappear from the budget.

34. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation was satisfied with the explanation given by the Director of the Budget Division concerning the Security Council Committee established by resolution 421 (1977) concerning the question of South Africa. Five temporary posts had been established to service that Committee, despite the objections of one State. The fact that the Committee had not met frequently did not mean that the question for which it had been established had diminished in importance. As was stated in paragraph 2A.22 of the budget estimates, the frequency of meetings was expected to increase. He suggested that the matter should be raised again once the Secretary-General had presented his conclusions, and that in the meantime the staffing level should be maintained.

35. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said it was clear that four of the seven posts requested for UNRWA would be new posts, even though the programme budget estimates referred to them as transferred posts. His delegation objected to the proposals for the establishment of new posts at UNRWA and asked for a separate vote on them. It should be noted that the United States was a major contributor to UNRWA, and that its views were entirely objective.

36. Mr. MERIEUX (France) said that if the four posts were approved it appeared that a corresponding number of posts would be deleted from those funded from extrabudgetary sources.

37. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take the necessary decisions on section 2.A. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee

(The Chairman)

wished to endorse the CPC recommendations contained in paragraphs 28 to 32 of its report.

38. It was so decided.

39. Mr. ASHUR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation was not opposed to the CPC recommendations on sections 2.A and 2.D, but it was opposed to peace-keeping operations, which had not solved and would not solve the problem of Palestine.

40. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the representative of the United States of America had requested a separate vote on the proposal under subsection E to establish four posts in Vienna, involving a sum of \$273,700. He invited delegations to vote on that proposal.

41. The proposal was adopted by 75 votes to 3, with 13 abstentions.

42. Mr. TOMASZEWSKY (Poland), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, asked for the record to show that his intention to abstain had been incorrectly registered as a vote against the proposal.

43. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that he had voted against the proposal since his delegation had reservations about transferring expenses from voluntary funds to the regular budget.

44. Mr. RALLIS (Greece) asked for the record to show that his intended vote in favour of the proposal had been incorrectly recorded as an abstention.

45. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that, as a rule, his delegation did not favour transferring posts financed from extrabudgetary resources to the regular budget, but had decided to vote for the proposal after studying the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

46. The CHAIRMAN next invited the Committee to take a decision in first reading on the appropriations in section 2A as a whole, excluding subsection C.

47. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$76,927,000 under section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading without objection.

48. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that although he had joined the consensus in approving the appropriation, he wished to record that his delegation would have liked to maintain the Secretary-General's original proposals for the new posts to be established for UNRWA. He had not spoken to that effect because he had wrongly thought that there would be a vote on those proposals. He believed that votes should on occasion be taken both on the Secretary-General's proposals and on the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

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Section 2 B. Department for Disarmament Affairs

49. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing his Committee's recommendations, said that the introduction to the Secretary-General's estimates for the biennium 1984-1985 indicated that in the allocation of resources for political matters priority had been given to disarmament affairs. That priority was reflected in the proposals before the Committee, in which the Secretary-General had requested a total of 11 new posts and the reclassification of 1 D-1 post to D-2.

50. The Advisory Committee recognized both the importance attached by Member States to disarmament questions and the need to increase the allocation of resources to that field of activity. It had therefore accepted the reclassification of the D-1 post in spite of some misgivings because it thought the higher grade would give the Department the additional political weight the Secretary-General desired. The Advisory Committee had also agreed with the Secretary-General's requests for additional D-2, P-5 and P-4 posts, as indicated in paragraph 2B.5 of its report. However, it was not able to recommend approval of the additional P-5 and P-3 posts or three of the six additional General Service posts, as explained in the following three paragraphs of its report.

51. He had received a number of intimations that the Advisory Committee had been too severe in its recommendations on the additional posts. It was for the Fifth Committee to decide if that was so and if it wished to be more liberal. He was quite comfortable with the recommendation concerning the P-3 post, because the Advisory Committee had considered that with prudent use of the Department's staff resources and proper co-ordination of subprogrammes 5 and 2 (World Disarmament Campaign and Information on disarmament), that post could be dispensed with.

52. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that the Secretary-General had indicated, when introducing his proposals on 7 October, that when there were differences of opinion between the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee, his representative in the Fifth Committee would be asked to point them out at the opportune time. He therefore wished to emphasize the importance attached to the establishment of the additional posts not recommended by the Advisory Committee, namely, the P-5 post requested for the provision of substantive services to the Committee on Disarmament, the P-3 post requested in connection with activities related to the World Disarmament Campaign, and the three supporting General Service posts.

53. The Secretary-General had pointed out the increasing importance attached to disarmament matters since the tenth special session of the General Assembly, as evidenced by the growing workload and the complexity of the issues involved, which had led to the creation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. One major responsibility of that Department was to provide substantive servicing to the Committee on Disarmament and another was to provide central guidance in co-ordinating the activities of the World Disarmament Campaign.

54. The P-5 post proposed for assignment to the Geneva branch was required to meet increased demands for servicing from the Committee on Disarmament. The number of

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(Mr. Foran)

posts earmarked for that purpose within the Department had only increased from one in 1979 to four in 1983, and while the establishment of the D-2 post would contribute substantially to the management of the Geneva branch, it would not meet the increased workload generated by the Committee on Disarmament. Nor were temporary assignments from New York to Geneva a satisfactory arrangement in view of the demands at Headquarters. On the other hand, establishment of the P-5 post with General Service support in Geneva would greatly facilitate the work of the Department in servicing the Committee on Disarmament.

55. With regard to the proposed P-3 post, he wished to dispel any doubts the Committee might have about a possible duplication of efforts between the subprogrammes 2 and 5 (Information on disarmament and World Disarmament Campaign). The former was intended to assemble information about the arms race while the latter aimed to inform, educate and enlist the support of the general public for United Nations objectives in the field of disarmament. The nature and range of their work were therefore significantly different and the establishment of an additional P-3 post under the subprogramme for the World Disarmament Campaign, to which only two Professional posts were currently assigned, therefore seemed essential.

56. Mr. ROY (India) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. At the twelfth special session, the General Assembly had stressed the need to strengthen the United Nations role in the disarmament field and to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating body. One of the Department's major responsibilities was to provide substantive servicing for the Committee on Disarmament, the number of whose meetings had trebled in the past few years. The number of documents to be drafted or processed by the Secretariat had increased accordingly and would continue to do so, yet the number of staff servicing the Committee had remained the same, thus throwing a serious burden on them and hindering the efficiency of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. His delegation was convinced that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would not suffice to meet the increased workload on the Committee at the Professional level. Moreover, he understood that the proposed P-5 post would underpin the current negotiations on chemical weapons, which were at an advanced stage and where there were good prospects of success. In view of the special importance of those negotiations, his delegation recommended that the Secretary-General's proposal for an additional P-5 post should be maintained.

57. With respect to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish an additional P-3 post to assist activities relating to the World Disarmament Campaign, the Advisory Committee had based its rejection on the possible duplication of efforts between that subprogramme and subprogramme 2 (Information on disarmament). But as the Controller had pointed out, the objectives of the two subprogrammes were distinctly different. The influencing of public opinion was an important way of strengthening efforts to achieve disarmament, and his delegation was therefore convinced that the Committee should uphold the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of the P-3 post in question.

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(Mr. Roy, India)

58. In conclusion, he noted that his delegation had consulted other members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and that they had been unanimous in supporting retention of the Secretary-General's proposals to reinforce the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

59. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that the number of disarmament-related items before the General Assembly and its consequent mandates to the Secretariat were constantly increasing. The requirements for substantive servicing of the Committee on Disarmament and for preparing information and study materials were also increasing and would continue to do so. The mandate given to the Department for Disarmament Affairs to provide overall guidance in co-ordinating activities relating to the World Disarmament Campaign would create fresh burdens. His delegation therefore agreed with the Secretary-General that the Department should be provided with the human and material resources needed to discharge its functions effectively. Member States and intergovernmental studies had recognized the growing importance of the United Nations for strengthening activities in the field of disarmament. His delegation therefore thought that the Secretary-General's proposals for establishing five new posts in the Professional category and six in the General Service category should be upheld.

60. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said his delegation agreed with the high priority accorded to disarmament matters in the proposed programme budget. At the same time, it wished to ensure that the expansion proposed in various sections of the budget estimates would give the desired results. For that reason, it looked with special care at sections such as that under consideration. He drew attention in particular to the significant expansion proposed in subprogramme 3 (Studies on disarmament) and urged the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies to analyse the effectiveness of current activities and to allocate the resources available to it carefully.

61. With regard to the World Disarmament Campaign, he pointed out that the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, as approved at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, provided that Campaign activities should be included in subprogramme 2 (Information on disarmament). Yet the proposed programme budget placed them in new subprogramme 5, rather than leaving that step to be taken by the General Assembly at the biennial revision of the medium-term plan due in 1984. While there might be a reason for adopting that procedure in the budget estimates, the deviation from the medium-term plan seemed inconsistent with relevant rules and regulations and did not appear to be a good precedent. He would therefore welcome the Secretariat's comments on the point.

62. Mrs. KNEŽEVIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that, in the light of the explanations provided by the Controller, her delegation was satisfied that the establishment of a new P-3 post under subprogramme 5 would not entail any duplication of subprogramme 2. Accordingly, it supported the Secretary-General's request.

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63. Mr. ELDIN (Sudan) said that his delegation agreed on the whole with the Advisory Committee's recommendations relating to section 2B. However, the fact that the Department for Disarmament Affairs regularly had to assign several officers to Geneva was proof of the need for the new posts proposed.

64. Mr. ORTEGA (Mexico) said that the P-5 post requested by the Secretary-General was absolutely essential for the servicing of the Committee on Disarmament. That function was an ongoing one, and the existing resources were inadequate. With regard to the P-3 post requested, there was no direct link between the World Disarmament Campaign and subprogramme 2 (Information on disarmament). The former essentially involved consciousness-raising, and thus far such activities had been carried out, to all intents and purposes, by one person. The six General Service posts were designed to bring the Department's staffing into line with its new and growing responsibilities. The Advisory Committee had not provided any convincing arguments in paragraph 2B.8 of its report to warrant a reduction in the number of those posts. He therefore urged approval of the Secretary-General's requests.

65. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that the world had for too long spent too much on armaments. It was time to think of spending a little on disarmament. Given the importance of the work of the United Nations in behalf of disarmament, he hoped the Committee would approve the resources which the Secretary-General deemed necessary to carry out the programme in that field.

66. His delegation would be interested in hearing the Secretariat's explanation regarding the deviation from the medium-term plan to which the United Kingdom representative had referred. With regard to the staffing of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, he emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable geographical distribution at the senior levels, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Some 80 per cent of senior posts were currently filled by nationals from one or two regions. Due attention should be paid to the need for equitable geographical distribution in recruiting for the new posts and in filling vacancies as they arose.

67. Miss DEREGIBUS (Argentina), Mr. NUÑEZ (Ecuador), Mrs. LISBOA (Venezuela), Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) and Mr. JAGUARIBE (Brazil) urged the approval of the posts requested by the Secretary-General.

68. Mr. Tommo Monthe (United Republic of Cameroon) took the Chair.

69. Mr. de SILVA (Sri Lanka) said that, in view of the increasing work-load of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the complexity of the issues with which it dealt, his delegation was inclined to support the Secretary-General's requests.

70. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that the decision of the General Assembly to strengthen the disarmament activities of the Organization did not justify a 6.9 per cent rate of real growth for that programme. When the General Assembly had adopted resolution 37/99 K, raising the former Centre for Disarmament to the level of a department, assurances had been given that the only budgetary implications involved were those relating to the upgrading of one post. His

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Mr. Keller, United States)

delegation regretted that those assurances had not been taken into account when preparing the programme budget proposals.

71. Much of the growth under section 2B related to the expansion of information activities and not to substantive servicing for meetings. Once again, the assurances given to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session regarding the funding of the World Disarmament Campaign had been disregarded. The Assembly had stipulated that the Campaign should be funded through redeployment and voluntary contributions. It was not appropriate for Member States to finance through assessed contributions activities which, in their view, did not warrant voluntary contributions.

72. While it was appropriate for some of the activities under the World Disarmament Campaign to be included in the existing subprogramme relating to information on disarmament, the proper course would have been to propose a new subprogramme during the next revision of the medium-term plan in 1984. The Secretariat had unfortunately not followed that course, thereby failing to comply with the programme planning regulations.

73. His delegation could not support any action to overturn the Advisory Committee's recommendations. While recognizing the importance which all Member States attached to the question of disarmament, it held that legitimate concerns should not be exploited to justify growth in areas which were marginal to disarmament issues themselves.

74. Mr. TRUSCOTT (Australia) asked whether the Advisory Committee's negative recommendation concerning three of the six General Service posts requested was a consequence of its recommendation that two Professional posts should not be approved.

75. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that support for the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament was not the issue at hand. The issue was to determine what resources were needed to carry out the approved programme. The Advisory Committee had studied the matter in detail and had seen fit to recommend that the Secretary-General's request for two Professional and three General Service posts should not be accepted. With regard to the P-3 post for the World Disarmament Campaign, the relevant resolution referred to voluntary contributions and made no mention whatsoever of funding under the regular budget. His delegation therefore strongly supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

76. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said he doubted whether increasing the staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs would really serve the noble cause to which all Member States attached such importance. The expert body in the matter, the Advisory Committee, had recommended a modest reduction in the estimates for the Department. If the Fifth Committee began, so early in its first reading of the budget, to disregard the Advisory Committee's recommendations, it would contribute to the uncontrolled growth of the budget. He urged support for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

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77. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that the Secretariat had indeed acted prematurely in establishing new subprogramme 5. The matter had been discussed in CPC and was reflected in paragraphs 43 and 47 of part II of its report. It would be recalled, however, that the section of the medium-term plan relating to disarmament had been drafted before the twelfth special session of the General Assembly, at which the decision had been taken to launch a World Disarmament Campaign. The Secretariat would see to it that the normal procedures were followed in future.

78. Mr. DITZ (Austria) said that, where opinions were divided as to the necessity of establishing new posts, it would be useful for a representative of the substantive department concerned to explain to the Committee whether or not the work could be done without the extra posts.

79. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that disarmament was fundamental to the objectives of the Organization because it had a direct bearing on international peace and security. The Controller had provided convincing arguments in favour of approving the new posts requested, and there was no need for further information from a representative of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. He urged the Committee to take a decision forthwith.

80. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that the Controller had not adequately answered the questions relating to the Professional posts requested by the Secretary-General. With regard to the P-3 post for the World Disarmament Campaign, the work was currently being done by temporary staff and the question was not whether to establish a new post but rather whether there was justification for converting temporary assistance to a permanent post. As far as the P-5 post was concerned, the budget provided no information on the organizational structure of the Geneva branch.

81. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision first on the recommendations of CPC relating to section 2B and then on the proposal of the representative of India.

82. The recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraph 46 to 49 of its report (A/38/38, Part II) were adopted.

83. An appropriation in the amount of \$8,297,600 under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading by 86 votes to 9, with 5 abstentions.

84. Mrs. de HEDERVARY (Belgium) said that her delegation had voted against the appropriation because of its dissatisfaction with the procedure followed in discussing section 2B and dealing with the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Committee had not been given an opportunity to vote on those recommendations, and the representative of the Secretary-General had waged what could only be called a propaganda campaign against them.

85. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on section 2A and had abstained in the voting on

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(Mr. Belyaev, Byelorussian SSR)

section 2B. The programmes to which those sections related were fundamental to the principles and objectives of the Charter, and should receive the highest priority. However, his delegation remained steadfast in its position of principle that the Organization's resources should be used in the most economical and effective manner. It supported, on the whole, the recommendations of CPC and ACABQ. Its abstention on section 2B reflected its reservations with regard to the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget, the establishment of new posts and the reclassification of posts.

86. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that his delegation had voted in favour of establishing the new posts. That did not mean that his delegation was fully convinced of the need for the posts in question, but, in view of the doubts raised by the discussion in the Committee, it had preferred to err on the side of prudence, so as to ensure that the Committee on Disarmament would not in any way be hampered in its important work.

87. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that giving high priority to a programme did not necessarily require a high level of resources. His delegation considered that the resources recommended by the Advisory Committee were more than adequate and, accordingly, had voted against the Secretary-General's request.

88. Mr. CROM (Netherlands) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation requested. However, had a separate vote been taken on the establishment of the P-3 and P-5 posts, it would have voted against.

89. Mr. FERNANDEZ MAROTO (Spain) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation, it was not totally convinced of the justification for the posts involved.

90. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that his delegation would have preferred an opportunity to vote separately on the five posts which the Advisory Committee considered unnecessary. Its vote against the appropriation reflected its preference for trusting the advice of the Advisory Committee.

91. Mr. RALLIS (Greece) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation. However, in view of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, it would have abstained in a separate vote on the P-3 and P-5 posts, if one had been taken.

92. Mr. MERIEUX (France) said that his delegation's negative vote should not be interpreted as a vote of no confidence in the Department for Disarmament Affairs. His delegation agreed that the programme of that Department should have high priority. It was not, however, fully convinced by the Secretary-General's arguments in favour of establishing the two new Professional posts. His delegation would have supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, had they been put to a vote.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.