



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SEKYEI (Ghana)

later: Miss MUCK (Austria)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 113: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/33/292, A/33/328)

1. Mr. NATHON (Hungary) said that the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was primarily a political question, with a bearing on the situation in the Middle East. The negotiations of recent weeks designed to remedy the situation failed to take into account the interests of the parties directly concerned and would merely lead to a partial solution. The situation in Lebanon was but one aspect of a broader problem, for which a lasting solution must be found.
2. The situation in the Middle East was further complicated by Israel's repeated acts of armed aggression against Lebanon, whose territorial integrity was threatened. His Government took the position that the crisis in the Middle East would be settled only if Israel abandoned its aggressive policy and withdrew from the territories which it was occupying, and only if the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to set up its own State was guaranteed. It believed that the resumption of the Geneva Conference would present a favourable framework for the negotiations.
3. The Hungarian Government had already stated on several occasions that the aggressor must bear the financial consequences of its acts. It was improper to approach the problem from a "neutral", i.e. financial, standpoint, while the aggressor refused to shoulder its political and financial obligations. Accordingly, his delegation believed that General Assembly resolution S-8/2, adopted at the eighth special session, had an inherent contradiction in that the Assembly called upon Israel to fulfil its responsibilities under Security Council resolution 425 (1978), yet imposed a heavy financial burden on the Member States of the Organization without mentioning the special responsibilities of the State that had brought about the situation. His delegation reserved the right to make a further statement when the Committee considered the draft resolution concerning the financing of UNIFIL which would be submitted subsequently.
4. Mr. AL-ALI (United Arab Emirates) recalled that, under the terms of resolution 425 (1978), the Security Council had decided to establish UNIFIL for the purpose of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, restoring international peace and security and assisting the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area. UNIFIL, which originally had been established for a period of four months, was in danger of becoming a permanent Force and would cost the United Nations more than \$44 million during the current mandate period. The Government of the United Arab Emirates considered that the expenses of the Force should be borne entirely by Israel.

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(Mr. Al-Ali, United Arab Emirates)

5. Israel was chiefly responsible for the civil war which had broken out in Lebanon in 1975 and was still in progress. It was lending military, financial and moral support to the separatist Lebanese forces, and especially those of Commander Haddad, thereby seeking to bring about the partition of Lebanon so as to carry out its expansionist aims and combat Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. Israel had not implemented Security Council resolution 425 (1978); after occupying a large part of Lebanon, it had made a pretence of evacuating Lebanese territory but in fact was maintaining its presence in the country and trying to hamper the efforts of UNIFIL in order to prevent the Lebanese authorities from re-establishing their sovereignty in southern Lebanon. Peace was not what Israel sought, either for itself or for the Arab States; it wished to bring poverty to the Arab countries by compelling them to devote all their resources to defence instead of using them for social and economic development. If peace and security were guaranteed, Israel would not be able to pursue its expansionist aims; its goal was to uproot all the Arabs inhabiting the area between the Nile and the Euphrates in order to build "greater Israel". As the Secretary-General had stated in paragraph 61 of document S/12845, "the fact that the Israel Defence Force handed over control of the border area to de facto armed groups, rather than to UNIFIL, has continued to make impossible the full deployment of UNIFIL and the restoration of the authority of the Lebanese Government in the whole area of operation. In this connexion it is important to stress that one of the main tasks of UNIFIL is to protect the rights and security of all of the inhabitants of its area of operation. To do this it requires full freedom of movement and deployment throughout the area".

6. In paragraph 5 of document A/33/292, the Secretary-General stated that \$14 million had been apportioned among Member States which had stated that they did not intend to contribute to UNIFIL. Despite the financial situation of the Force, it was difficult to request Member States to finance expenditures which should be borne by Israel; that would be tantamount to encouraging Israel to continue its aggression. The repeated acts of aggression by Israel were costing the United Nations hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that had been going on for decades. It was regrettable that, at a time when the United Nations was reviewing questions concerning disarmament and the reduction of the resources devoted to disarmament, it must increase its military expenditure in order to maintain security. It was hard to see, in those circumstances, how it could convince Member States to reduce their military expenses. The considerable amounts which the United Nations had spent on the financing of its three peace-keeping forces in the Middle East could have been used to relieve poverty in many nations or to promote other noble causes.

7. Although it considered that Israel should be responsible for all the expenses, the delegation of the United Arab Emirates was resolved to co-operate with the United Nations in helping to resolve its financial difficulties. It was thus prepared to contribute to the financing of UNIFIL, not to encourage Israeli aggression, but to serve the cause of peace.

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8. Mr. AKASHI (Japan) said that UNIFIL was playing an important role in southern Lebanon. Together with the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), it was opening the way, by virtue of its presence, to a settlement of the Middle East question based on peace and justice. UNIFIL had put an end to bloodshed and prevented the situation from deteriorating further. His delegation hoped that the presence of UNIFIL would not be considered an end in itself but rather a means of giving new impetus to political and diplomatic negotiations between the parties, with a view to constructing a just and durable peace in the area.

9. His delegation expressed its gratitude to the countries which had provided contingents and made voluntary contributions in kind (A/33/292, para. 6) and emphasized that the maintenance of peace in the Middle East was of concern to all the States Members of the United Nations. It expressed its deep concern at the financial situation with respect to UNIFIL, which was described in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/33/292) as posing "a serious problem for the proper financial management of the Force". The Secretary-General noted that \$14 million of the amount for the first mandate period of UNIFIL was considered uncollectable. In his delegation's view, the international community should reimburse the contributing countries for the full cost of the troops and the equipment provided to the United Nations. The principle of collective financial responsibility was one of the corner-stones of the Organization and should be upheld in the case of UNIFIL, since the Force had been constituted in accordance with Article 17 of the Charter. The obligations assumed under Article 17 must be honoured by all Member States. His delegation therefore urged the Member States which had withheld their assessed contributions to reconsider their decision in order not to put further strain on the Organization's already precarious financial situation.

10. With respect to the cost estimates and appropriations requested for UNIFIL for the period from 19 September 1978 to 18 January 1979, his delegation accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the requirements should be reduced by \$2,278,000, and that the UNIFIL budget should not exceed a gross amount of \$44.6 million, with the understanding that the Secretary-General might use the appropriations with the necessary flexibility within the limits of the total amount to be approved by the General Assembly. As to the financing of UNIFIL after 18 January 1979, his delegation was prepared to approve the procedures recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 28 of its report (A/33/328).

11. Regarding the expenditure provided for in the budget of the Force, his delegation considered that it would be excessive to increase the number of internationally recruited staff by 109 persons. It hoped that the authorized posts would be filled only after the closest examination of genuine needs. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that it would be desirable to place maximum reliance on the self-help potential of the Force for maintenance, repairs and adaptation of premises in order to minimize recourse to contractors. Furthermore, scrupulous attention to economy in the purchase of transportation and other equipment was required; the Advisory Committee had found some discrepancies in cost estimates in that area (A/33/328, para. 19). His delegation trusted that

(Mr. Akashi, Japan)

the Board of Auditors, the Internal Audit Service and the Controller would watch attentively the implementation of the budget. It was confident that the Force would be administered and managed with exemplary efficiency and economy, as the General Assembly had requested in resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978.

12. Mr. HASSON (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation had already set forth its position on the presence of international forces in Arab territories in the wake of the Israeli aggression in 1967. The aggression carried out against Lebanon the preceding year was but a link in a long chain of imperialist conspiracies and a fresh manifestation of the expansionist policy of zionism, the aim of which was to exterminate the Palestinian people and prevent them from exercising their legitimate right to self-determination.

13. When the presence of international forces in the Arab region had begun to assume a permanent character, his delegation had stated that it was not prepared to finance those forces because it refused to be a party to the strengthening of Zionist expansionism. The Zionist régime was flouting international resolutions and was pursuing its policy of aggression and expansion with a view to disuniting the Palestinian and Arab peoples and condemning them to poverty. The current situation was only one aspect of that policy, and since its so-called withdrawal from Lebanon, Israel had not ceased its meddling in that country's internal affairs. United Nations forces should not infringe on the sovereignty of the Lebanese people, nor should they prevent them from recovering their inalienable national rights as recognized by the United Nations. Accordingly, his delegation would not participate in the vote on the draft resolution which was to be submitted.

14. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the financing of peace-keeping operations was an area of particular interest to his delegation because it was concerned that the United Nations should continue to have the capability to work for peace in the world. Most Member States paid their assessments for peace-keeping operations in full in spite of the financial burden entailed, but there was a growing tendency on the part of some either not to pay their assessed contributions or to hold back a portion of them. In the case of UNIFIL, an amount of \$14 million was already considered uncollectable. If that tendency continued, the United Nations might no longer be able to provide peace-keeping forces when Member States requested it to do so. His delegation therefore urged Member States to pay their share of the costs of peace-keeping forces in full in order to promote a just and lasting solution to the crisis in the Middle East.

15. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reiterated the view, already expressed by the Soviet representative in the Security Council, that a number of important principles of the United Nations Charter relating to peace-keeping operations had not been respected when the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon had been established. In keeping with its position of principle that the full cost of eliminating the after-effects of the armed aggression carried out by Israel against Lebanon should be borne by the aggressor, the Soviet Union would not contribute towards expenses arising from the establishment and maintenance of UNIFIL.

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16. Mr. MINCHEV (Bulgaria) said that, as his delegation had stated on numerous occasions, and in particular at the eighth special session of the General Assembly, the Bulgarian Government was of the view that, in order to eliminate permanently the hotbed of tension in the Middle East, Israel must withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people must be allowed to exercise their legitimate rights, including the right to establish a State of their own. That was the only way to guarantee the rights of all peoples in the region so that they could live in peace and security. His delegation, which had strongly condemned the overt armed aggression carried out against Lebanon, believed that the aggressor and its supporters should assume full responsibility for their actions, including, in particular, the financing of UNIFIL. Accordingly, his Government would not contribute to the financing of UNIFIL.

17. Mr. RIZO (Albania) said that, far from helping to safeguard peace and security in the world, United Nations forces stationed in various parts of the world, including Lebanon, were being used by the imperialist Powers - the United States and the Soviet Union - to subvert the freedom and independence of peoples and interfere in the internal affairs of other States. Thus, the presence of the United Nations Force in Lebanon in recent months had further complicated the situation, and the cause of peace was more than ever in jeopardy. It was difficult to believe that UNIFIL could play a positive role in that country.

18. The grave situation existing in Lebanon and in other areas of the Middle East had been brought about by repeated acts of armed aggression committed against the Arab peoples by Israeli Zionists in pursuance of their policy of expansion and annexation. Those acts, facilitated by the constant support of the United States imperialists and the encouragement drawn from the anti-Arab policies of the Soviet socialist imperialists, were the result of the long rivalry between the super-Powers in the Middle East. His delegation strongly condemned the repeated acts of aggression committed by the Israeli Zionists and the plots hatched by the imperialist super-Powers, the enemies of the Arab peoples. The Albanian people and Government, in solidarity with the Arab peoples, supported their just struggle to liberate the occupied territories and secure recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a national homeland.

19. Consistent with the principled stand of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania regarding the establishment and financing of United Nations forces, his delegation was firmly opposed to the stationing of the Interim Force in Lebanon and its financing, and would vote against any resolutions on that matter submitted to the Committee. Albania would not contribute to the financing of UNIFIL.

20. Mr. LADOR (Israel) said his delegation regretted that the Committee had not confined itself to a consideration of the purely financial aspects of item 113 (b). Since some delegations had politicized the issue and had deliberately distorted the facts, he wished to set the record straight; he would not, however, reply to those representatives who had decided to reopen the discussion which had taken place in the Security Council when the mandate of UNIFIL had been renewed, as that would waste the Committee's time on questions which were not within its purview.

(Mr. Lador, Israel)

21. Israel viewed with grave concern the current situation in Lebanon. It believed that the three essential elements of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) - peace, security and territorial sovereignty - were interrelated and indivisible, and it had fully complied with its obligations under that resolution, as the Secretary-General had confirmed to the Security Council on 13 June. It had been the incessant attacks on its civilian population which had compelled Israel to mount an operation in March 1978; it had acted in self-defence, and any Member State of the United Nations would have done likewise.

22. Israel was shouldering its moral responsibility to the inhabitants of the areas adjacent to it, as shown by its open-door policy with respect to the Lebanese, Christian and Moslem alike.

23. Israel would continue to co-operate with UNIFIL until peace, security and sovereignty were restored. It had been suggested by some that Israel should assume the total cost of UNIFIL; however, peace-keeping operations, one of the main responsibilities of the Organization, had always been financed jointly by all Member States, which were duty-bound to pay their assessed contributions for such purposes, as Israel itself had done. It should be noted that some of the Members who had made that suggestion were themselves delinquent in their financial obligations under Security Council resolutions and systematically refused to pay the full amount of their assessments. It would be well for those Member States posing as champions of the Charter, one of which was a super-Power, to stop lecturing others regarding their moral obligations. In that connexion, he recalled the statement made by the representative of Kenya on the question of the scale of assessments.

24. He paid a tribute to the Member States which had provided troops to assist in the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), and to the officers and men of UNIFIL, who, under the command of Major-General Erskine, were performing a difficult task in an exemplary manner.

25. Mr. HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the representative of Israel could not fool the world because everyone knew what the situation was. Virtually all the representatives of Member States who had spoken had condemned Israeli aggression, which was directly responsible for the presence of United Nations forces in the Middle East, as evidenced by the fact that United Nations forces were stationed between Israel and three neighbouring countries. Israel was not anxious to see peace restored in the region because the state of instability was conducive to its expansionist ambitions. It continued to deny the Palestinian people the right to live in peace in a sovereign State. Such injustice could not be allowed to continue. Aggression must be brought to an end so that the resources for the maintenance of United Nations forces could be devoted to the welfare of mankind. In reproaching some Member States for not sharing the expenses, Israel was attempting to counter the accusations made by all delegations. The victims of aggression could not be asked to finance its after-effects. It was for the aggressor to defray those considerable expenses, which could not be borne indefinitely by all Member States.

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26. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said he was making a statement in order to prevent an emotional debate from dragging on ad nauseam and to save the Committee time by reminding it of certain facts. Historically speaking, the major Powers were responsible for the partition of Palestine. Although that had been an unjust partition which had caused great suffering to the Palestinian people, it would be pointless to reopen a political discussion on the subject. All Member States should accept the decisions of the majority, or else withdraw from the Organization, which would be a mistake. As to the apportionment of expenses in connexion with United Nations forces, each State should assume its responsibilities because UNIFIL had to be financed until peace was restored in the Middle East.

27. Since the Fifth Committee was not a political committee, it should merely examine, in the present case, the financial aspects of UNIFIL. The Committee's work would be delayed if the debate was politicized. He therefore urged all representatives, regardless of their ideology, to return the item to its purely financial context and to accept the expenditure approved by a majority vote.

28. Mr. AL-ALI (United Arab Emirates) said it was pointless for him to exercise his right of reply since a satisfactory response had already been given to the statement by the Zionist entity.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
(continued) (A/33/32, vols. I and II)

29. Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico), referring to the comments made by the Committee on Conferences in paragraph 54 of volume I of its report (A/33/32), said he was concerned that the Organization had grown to such an extent that in the near future neither New York, Geneva, Vienna nor Nairobi would be able to accommodate United Nations meetings. The Fifth Committee was perfectly aware of the heavy burden which that imposed on some countries. Although in most cases the Fifth Committee endorsed ACABQ's recommendations for savings, for the moment it could only consider the financial implications of General Assembly decisions establishing new committees, commissions or centres and calling for fresh studies or documents. The Fifth Committee was the only committee which had a perfect overview of the United Nations and its operation and received, on a yearly basis, the advice of financial and public administration experts who were seeking to improve the efficiency of the Organization. Moreover, it was to the Fifth Committee that the Committee on Conferences submitted its report.

30. As everyone knew, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization had not entirely fulfilled its mandate, and more time was certainly needed before its work bore fruit. The Special Committee was dealing with very wide-ranging problems relating to peace and security, but it also had a mandate to recommend measures to streamline the operation of the United Nations, an objective to which it had given secondary importance. The report of the Committee on Conferences (A/33/32, vols. I and II) clearly reflected the ambiguity of its mandate and responsibilities. His delegation felt that that Committee and the Special Committee were involved in converging and, in some cases, overlapping activities.

(Mr. Buj-Flores, Mexico)

31. His delegation's position was therefore as follows: the valuable recommendations and suggestions of the Committee on Conferences proved it had not disappointed the confident hopes entertained by the General Assembly in converting it into a permanent organ; it was urgent and imperative to check the expansion of the United Nations by limiting the number of subsidiary organs which could be established by the main organs; the General Committee of the General Assembly should give priority consideration to removing from the provisional agenda items which had not been considered during the two preceding years; the General Committee should consolidate agenda items and abolish useless organs, and the Committee on Conferences, with a broader mandate, could and should play a decisive role in that respect; the Fifth Committee was the appropriate organ to examine measures to facilitate and streamline the activities of the United Nations, on the basis of the work of the Committee on Conferences. In general, it was essential, for the future of the Organization, to learn to say no, not to go beyond the bare necessities and to do away with the all too numerous examples of superfluity.

32. He suggested that the Committee on Conferences should pay special attention to the definition and broadening of its mandate and make specific recommendations to the General Assembly. He also suggested that paragraph 1 of section I of draft resolution I contained in volume II of the report should be amended to read: "Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Committee on Conferences ...".

33. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that the problem of United Nations conferences was growing more acute, a fact attested to by the observations of the Secretary-General concerning long statements and documentation and the suggestion made to the General Assembly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines that there should be a 10-minute time-limit on statements made during the general debate.

34. The Fifth Committee would recall that the amount of \$142 million for conference services originally provided in the programme budget adopted in 1977 had been subsequently increased to \$150 million because of an increased number of meetings. By the end of the biennium, it was possible that more resources would be needed. Only recently the Fifth Committee had approved the administrative and financial implications for the meetings of the Committee of the Whole. Member States should initiate measures to limit the number of meetings and conferences, thus obviating the need to resort to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

35. On the question of shorter and less frequent meetings, he had several suggestions: the agenda could be confined to substantive issues only, with organizational work left for informal meetings; the item "Other matters" could be deleted since it only tended to prolong discussions once a controversial subject was introduced, and, contrary to current practice, decisions on the convening of meetings should not come under "Other matters"; as had been done in the Fifth Committee, a time-table should be prepared and followed as closely as possible, with no meeting exceeding the scheduled date of adjournment unless there was an urgent reason to do so. The table in annex VII to the report of the Committee on Contributions showed that the Fifth Committee, thanks to its punctuality, had lost only 12 hours out of 72 meetings held.

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(Mr. Garrido, Philippines)

36. Cancellations of meetings were attributable, inter alia, to lack of documentation, the fact that representatives of Member States were required to attend other meetings or had not received instructions from their Governments, the priority given to small-group negotiations, and at times the lack of a quorum. Accordingly, his delegation endorsed recommendations 1 to 9 of paragraph 94 of the report of the Committee on Conferences.

37. As to documentation, it was to be noted that the calendar contained in the report of the Committee on Conferences indicated that summary records would be provided for the fifth session of UNCTAD, to be held at Manila from 7 May to 1 June 1979, contrary to a decision by the Trade and Development Board. More generally, the steps taken by the Secretariat, with the co-operation of delegations, to reduce the volume of documentation were welcome. The problem had already been dealt with at length and considerable progress had been achieved; however, further action was needed.

38. A few years earlier, it had cost \$80 to reproduce a single page of a document translated into the different languages. It would be interesting to know the current cost for the same item. The 32-page limit for reports initiated by the Economic and Social Council and the establishment by the Secretary-General of limits for various categories of documents deserved wider application. The Secretariat should monitor the long-term effects of that procedure should it be adopted as a standard model.

39. The report of the Committee on Conferences had taken account of almost all the aspects of preparation, control and limitation of documentation, and his delegation endorsed the pertinent recommendations. It also endorsed draft resolutions I and II contained in volume II, in the light of the judicious amendment suggested by the representative of Mexico.

40. Mr. FOKINE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he approved of the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences, and particularly those concerning a review of the duration and frequency of sessions, efforts to achieve punctuality and thus avoid wasting time, minimization of the financial implications of meetings and of the volume of documentation, and increased efficiency of conference staff.

41. The work of the Committee on Conferences none the less had its short-comings, the most general of which was the imprecise nature of its recommendations. For example, in paragraph 24 of volume I of its report (A/33/32), the Committee had failed to make it clear that the session of the Commission on the Status of Women had not been held because of insufficient Secretariat services. Another short-coming was that it had neglected important questions such as the development of a quota system for the apportionment of resources for conference services, the elaboration of quantitative work standards for conference staff and, lastly, the question of reimbursement for conference services provided by the United Nations to bodies financed out of extrabudgetary funds. According to paragraph 3 (e) of General Assembly resolution 32/72, the Committee was to "advise the General Assembly

(Mr. Fokine, USSR)

on means to ensure improved co-ordination of conferences within the United Nations system". However, it had confined itself to secondary problems and it was doubtful that it would ever fulfil its mandate.

42. The Committee on Conferences had also neglected two important questions which the Fifth Committee might consider. First there were various departures from the principle laid down in paragraph 11 of resolution 2609 (XXIV) that "not more than one major special conference shall be scheduled in any one year". Nine major conferences had been held in 1977 and 10 were scheduled for 1978. In addition, there was the work of the preparatory committees for all those conferences, which sometimes extended over several years and frequently duplicated the work of the substantive departments of the Secretariat. His delegation therefore proposed that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should reaffirm its resolution 2609 (XXIV) and take a position on the question of the usefulness of certain preparatory bodies.

43. Secondly, it was clear from paragraph 22 of volume I of the report of the Committee on Conferences that many meetings of UNDP, UNICEF and UNITAR (598 in 1977) were financed by funds from the regular budget of the Organization. It was obvious that the cost of the meetings of those bodies should be financed from voluntary contributions. The adoption by the Fifth Committee of a recommendation on those lines would make it possible to reduce United Nations expenditure accordingly.

44. With regard to paragraph 3 (d) of part II of resolution 3351 (XXIX), establishing the Committee on Conferences, he considered that, there too, the Committee had not fulfilled its mandate, which was to "consider the feasibility of a quota system to allocate resources among various fields of activity". As that objective had been adopted by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Fifth Committee should request the Committee on Conferences to give it priority in its work in 1979. It should also make a very serious effort to settle the question of quantitative work standards for conference staff and submit its conclusions at the thirty-fourth session. His delegation reserved the right to revert to those questions when draft resolutions I and II in the Committee's report were discussed.

45. Miss MUCK (Austria) said that the report before the Committee seemed to provide clear proof that the Committee on Conferences had effectively performed the role assigned to it under General Assembly resolution 32/72 with regard to the optimum apportionment of conference resources. The Committee had had an opportunity to hold fruitful consultations with representatives of the Secretariat, and its recommendations had been adopted on a consensus basis.

46. A number of recommendations were addressed to intergovernmental bodies. Their adoption should help to increase the efficiency of the organs concerned. As the representative of New Zealand had said, it was to be hoped that there would be more effective co-operation with the Economic and Social Council in future in managing the calendar of conferences, which imposed a considerable burden on small delegations.

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(Miss Muck, Austria)

47. Other recommendations were directed to the Secretary-General, and should make it possible to eliminate duplication and improve the preparation of the documentation required by intergovernmental bodies. To illustrate the problem of unnecessary documentation, she pointed out that some working papers which had been issued as preparatory documents for the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament had been included once again in three separate reports of different United Nations bodies: the report of the Preparatory Committee, the report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to the special session and the report of the same Committee to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

48. A pre-condition for the application of the suggested new procedures was, of course, the professional competence with which the studies were carried out in the Secretariat departments concerned. The leadership in those departments should make an effort to ensure that such work was of a high professional quality.

49. Her delegation fully supported draft resolutions I and II appearing in the report before the Committee.

50. Mr. ŠIGUT (Czechoslovakia) said that the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/33/32, vols. I and II), which was the result of conscientious work, deserved to be studied carefully. The Committee on Conferences, which had wisely decided to base its work on the principle of consensus, had faithfully fulfilled the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in resolution 32/72. It had submitted a set of valuable recommendations which, if progressively applied, should make it possible to ensure optimum apportionment of the resources available for conference services and thus reduce expenditure. After examining them, the Fifth Committee should recommend their adoption by the General Assembly.

51. In his delegation's opinion, recommendations 1, 2 and 4 were very important, because their implementation would make it possible to reduce the amount of time and resources wasted and release resources to increase the effectiveness of the Organization. Recommendations 6 and 9 were also very useful: it was essential to avoid the cancellation of meetings and not to hold more than five special conferences in any given year. Recommendation 11 deserved special mention because it dealt with the reduction of documentation. As was known, that question had already been studied by various bodies and the Joint Inspection Unit had prepared a report on the publication of documentation within the United Nations system. His delegation therefore formally proposed that the Fifth Committee should take a decision to the effect that the Committee on Conferences should provide, in its next report, precise information and specific recommendations on the subject, making use of the studies made in that area. His delegation, which was pleased to have been able to participate in the work of the Committee on Conferences, supported the draft resolutions contained in its report and recommended their adoption by consensus.

52. The Czechoslovak delegation agreed with the Soviet delegation that bodies such as UNDP and UNITAR should finance the conference services they needed from their own budgets. That would help to improve the financial situation of the United

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(Mr. Šigut, Czechoslovakia)

Nations and make for more rational utilization of the conference rooms, the available technical services and other services provided free of charge by the Secretariat. It also endorsed the second Soviet proposal, to the effect that the Committee on Conferences should pay greater attention to the elaboration of quantitative work standards for the staff of conference services.

53. Miss Muck (Austria) took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979 (continued)

Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat (continued) (A/C.5/33/6)

54. Mr. CUNNINGHAM (United States of America) said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/6) would have been more useful if it had contained more precise information. His delegation also considered it necessary to ensure that the application of the nomenclature did not induce the various Secretariat services to seek a higher status. Furthermore, it would like the term "centre" to be used as little as possible.

55. Mr. SEALY (Trinidad and Tobago) recalled that at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee had adopted without objection a decision regarding the application of a standardized and uniform organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat. At the thirty-first session, the Secretary-General had submitted a progress report (A/C.5/31/8) on the subject, which the Committee had not been able to consider until 1977.

56. At the thirty-second session, the Committee had had before it the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/32/17) and the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.5). The Secretary-General, in presenting that report, had pointed out that he had adopted a flexible and pragmatic approach, taking into consideration on the one hand the need for uniformity and, on the other hand, the inherent diversity of the structure of the Organization. He had added that, considering the diversity of the Organization, the utilization of the proposed nomenclature would represent a significant improvement over the existing state of affairs. That concern for greater uniformity was indeed to be commended.

57. The Secretary-General had reviewed in his report the evolution of the structure of the United Nations. He had concluded that since the establishment of the Organization, an over-all review of the titles of its organizational units had never been attempted. Titles had been established and revised on an essentially ad hoc basis, and there had been no consistent application of any standard policy or criteria, which undoubtedly explained the unpatterned situation that prevailed. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had pointed out that some names reflected specific decisions by intergovernmental organs or were embodied in legal instruments, while others were the result of decisions taken at the Secretariat level.

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(Mr. Sealy, Trinidad and Tobago)

58. At the thirty-second session the Secretary-General had proposed the establishment of certain norms applicable throughout the Secretariat (a specified number of hierarchical levels, different designations for the persons in charge of organizational elements, and criteria governing the official designation of a particular unit). In his report he had listed six hierarchical levels and spelt out the criteria to be used in designating each administrative unit as a department, secretariat, office, centre, division, branch, section or unit. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had shown in its report to the thirty-second session of the General Assembly that the proposed nomenclature was based on a flexible application of several criteria, which included (a) hierarchical distance from the Secretary-General; (b) number of staff in an organizational subdivision; and (c) nature and complexity of the responsibilities involved. Member States had approved those proposals and the General Assembly, in resolution 32/204, co-sponsored by his delegation, had endorsed the general direction of nomenclature reform proposed by the Secretary-General in his report.

59. His delegation acknowledged the difficulty of converting existing designations of organizational elements to the new nomenclature, and he felt that a certain degree of flexibility would have to be built into the system. However exceptions should be kept to an absolute minimum.

60. With regard to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/6), his delegation noted that the interdepartmental working group had completed its review of the nomenclature for all departments, offices and other major organizational elements at Headquarters, as well as for the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

61. Paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Secretary-General's report showed that the organizational elements had been classified in accordance with the definitions established in paragraph 17 of document A/C.5/32/17. In paragraphs 12 to 15 of his report the Secretary-General listed several organizational elements currently designated as "divisions", although they did not meet the requirements for that designation. Noting that the Secretary-General had decided to defer a decision on that matter until the review of organizational elements at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and in the regional commissions had been completed, his delegation would like to have some clarification as to the bearing that the review of organizational elements away from Headquarters might have on the reclassification of those 11 "divisions" at Headquarters. It feared that resistance to change on the part of organizational elements at Headquarters might undermine the nomenclature reform and that the United Nations might be faced with a proliferation of requests for additional professional staff by persons in charge of various organizational elements who were anxious to retain or obtain a particular designation for their elements and, indirectly, a reclassification of their own posts. The Secretary-General should proceed with the categorization of the organizational elements, taking into account the number of staff and the level of the persons in charge and also applying flexibly the various additional criteria, such as those concerning hierarchical distance from the Secretary-General and the nature and complexity of the responsibilities involved. His delegation felt that, from a psychological

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point of view, it was better to view organizational elements in a horizontal rather than a vertical sense. It believed that the Member States should leave the designation of organizational elements or their heads to the Secretary-General and concentrate instead on the substantive programmes.

62. Mr. HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the adoption of a new nomenclature should be accompanied by an improvement in methods of work, and that it was also necessary to safeguard the rights of staff members. His delegation was surprised to find that in some divisions there were very great discrepancies between the responsibilities assigned to staff members at the same level. It also wished to have some clarification concerning the hierarchical levels discussed in paragraphs 5 and 8 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/6).

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.