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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Draft report of the Fifth Committee

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Socialist Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under agenda item 100, the Fifth Committee considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979. The Committee recommends a gross appropriation of \$ and an estimate for income (other than income derived from staff assessment) of \$. The net expenditure for the biennium 1978-1979 is thus estimated at \$.
2. With regard to the Working Capital Fund, the Committee recommends that the Fund should be maintained for the biennium 1978-1979 at the level of \$40 million.
3. The Committee also recommends an estimate of \$ as staff assessment for transfer in the course of the biennium 1978-1979 to the Tax Equalization Fund, from which credits are distributed to Member States in accordance with General Assembly resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955.
4. For its examination of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, the Committee had before it, as basic documents, the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 submitted by the Secretary-General, 1/ the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 2/ and the report of the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6 and Corr.1 and 2).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its seventeenth session. 3/ Revised estimates for various appropriation sections were considered on the basis of subsequent reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

II. GENERAL DEBATE

5. The general debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 was held at the 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th to 13th, 15th and 16th meetings, between 29 September and 13 October 1977, and is reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/32/SR.5, 7, 9, 11-13, 15 and 16).

6. Oral statements were made by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the 12th meeting, on 12 October 1977.

7. The reservations expressed by delegations with respect to certain items of expenditure included in the budget estimates are reflected in the summary records of the Committee indicated in paragraph 5 above.

III. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL SUBJECTS

Revision of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations

8. At its 4th meeting, on 28 September 1977, the Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the revisions to financial regulations 11.1, 11.4 and 12.10 recommended by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/31/58 and Corr.1), as amended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium. 4/ The decision taken by the Committee on this question has been dealt with in its report to the Assembly (A/32/389).

9. The Advisory Committee, in its report, 5/ requested that an appropriate draft of a revision of the Financial Regulations on the question of commitment against future financial periods be submitted to the current session.

10. Accordingly, the Secretary-General, in annex I to his report on this subject (A/C.5/32/34 and Corr.1), submitted a proposed revision of financial regulation 10.2 as well as a proposed rewording of the first operative paragraph of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, which would carry out the provision in the regulation with respect to such expenses for the 1978-1979 biennium. In annex II of his report, the United Nations Board of Auditors proposed certain changes in the Financial Regulations described in those regulations as "additional terms of reference governing the audit of the United Nations".

3/ Ibid., Supplement No. 38 (A/32/38).

4/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8), chap. I, para. 93.

5/ Ibid., paras. 96-102.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

11. At its 47th meeting, on 22 November 1977, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-third session its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/34 and Corr.1) (see para. 238 (a) below).

Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations

12. The report of the Secretary-General on this subject, submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 31/205 of 22 December 1976, was considered by the Committee at its 4th, 6th and 10th meetings on 28 and 30 September and 6 October, respectively.

13. An oral statement was made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the 4th meeting.

14. The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management introduced the report of the Secretary-General and replied to queries raised at the 4th and 6th meetings.

15. At the 10th meeting, on 6 October, the representative of Poland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.6) on behalf of Poland and Trinidad and Tobago, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its decision of the twenty-ninth session taken at the 2325th meeting on 18 December 1974, outlining principles and guidelines for the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations,

"Recalling also its decision of the thirtieth session taken at the 2444th meeting on 17 December 1975, reaffirming its conviction that the aforesaid principles and guidelines should be implemented promptly, fully and effectively,

"Recalling further resolution 31/205 of 22 December 1976, which reaffirmed its decisions of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report on the implementation of the aforementioned decisions,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (document A/C.5/32/7 of 1 September 1977),

"Expressing the view that the aforementioned report does not adequately respond to the requirements of the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and shows still existing deficiencies in implementation of the principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants,

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"Taking note of the assurances of the Secretary-General that future reports will fully and adequately reflect the existing practice in the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly a full and comprehensive report, showing his efforts to eliminate existing deficiencies in implementing principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations;

"2. Considers that such a report should contain detailed comparative data, as well as a statement evaluating the status of implementation of the principles and guidelines as set by the General Assembly;

"3. Decides to consider the question of the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly."

16. The representative of the Philippines orally proposed that the first and second preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.6) be combined, and that in the latter paragraph the words "its conviction that" be deleted and the word "which" be added between the words "guidelines" and "should". He also proposed the deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph but subsequently withdrew the proposal.

17. The Chairman of the Committee proposed that the word "Considers" in the second operative paragraph be replaced by the words "Requests further", and that the third operative paragraph be deleted.

18. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendments orally proposed by the Philippines and the Chairman.

19. The Philippines then joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.6).

20. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.4, 6 and 10).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

21. At the 10th meeting, on 6 October 1977, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.6, as orally amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution I).

Expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegates' facilities at United Nations Headquarters

22. The Committee considered this subject at its 21st, 24th and 25th meetings on 20, 24 and 25 October 1977 respectively, at which time it had for its

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consideration the report of the Secretary-General on the expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters (A/C.5/32/4 and Corr.1), as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.1).

23. The report of the Advisory Committee was introduced by its Chairman at the 21st meeting.

24. In its report (A/32/8/Add.1), the Advisory Committee recommended approval, in full or with slight modifications, of some of the projects proposed by the Secretary-General. With regard to the Secretary-General's proposals in respect of a new cafeteria and kitchen and the expansion of delegates' dining facilities, the Advisory Committee, in paragraphs 18 and 27 of its report, recommended that the Secretary-General should review the plan for these projects and submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third or thirty-fourth session.

25. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this item, as well as the replies made by the representative of the Secretary-General to questions raised are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.21, 24 and 25).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

26. At its 25th meeting, on 25 October 1977, the Fifth Committee, by 82 votes to 9, with 1 abstention, decided to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters (A/C.5/32/4 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.1);

(b) Concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/32/8/Add.1) (see para. 239, draft resolution X below, sect. J).

Impact of inflation on budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system

27. The Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation on budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system (A/C.5/32/5) at its 27th and 29th meetings on 26 and 28 October 1977, respectively.

28. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the observations of that Committee on the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/5) in an oral statement at the 27th meeting.

29. The comments and observations made by delegations during the discussion of this subject, as well as the replies made by the representative of the Secretary-General to questions raised, are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.27 and 29).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

30. At its 29th meeting, on 28 October, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation on budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system (A/C.5/32/5);

(b) Consider the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/5) as an interim report;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to report to the thirty-third session of the Assembly on progress achieved with respect to this question, taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during its consideration of this item at the thirty-second session (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. II).

Implications of extending Pension Fund coverage to certain
former members for service with the United Nations Relief
and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
during the period from 1950 to 1960 inclusive

31. At its 57th meeting at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee decided that consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject (A/C.5/31/71) should be deferred to the thirty-second session 6/. When the Committee considered this item at its 31st and 33rd meetings on 1 and 2 November 1977, respectively, it had before it also a further report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/14) as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.2).

6/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 92, document A/31/470, para. 100 (g).

32. In its report (A/32/8/Add.2), which was introduced by its Chairman at the 31st meeting, the Advisory Committee concluded that the report of the Secretary-General did not address itself to all the implications related to this question and suggested that, should the Fifth Committee decide to pursue the question, it might wish to request the Secretary-General to study the matter further and to submit a detailed report on all the implications involved.

33. At the same meeting the representative of the United States of America orally proposed that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General and should decide to take no further action on the matter.

34. At the 33rd meeting, following suggestions made by France and Pakistan during the discussion of this question, the representative of the United States of America, in the interest of compromise, withdrew the latter part of his proposal, which called for a decision to take no further action on the matter.

35. Attention was called to the fact that the United States proposal made no mention of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/32/8/Add.2), and the omission was rectified.

36. The comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.31 and 33).

37. The Committee then decided, by consensus, to approve the proposal of the United States, as amended.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

38. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should

(a) Take note of the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/71 and A/C.5/32/14) on the implications of extending coverage of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund to certain former staff members for services with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East during the period from 1950 to 1960 inclusive;

(b) Take note also of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.2) (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. III).

Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat

39. At its 57th meeting at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-second session 7/ its consideration of the progress report of the Secretary-General on this subject (A/C.5/31/8)

7/ Ibid., para. 100 (c).

submitted pursuant to the decision of the General Assembly at the thirtieth session with regard to the adoption of a standardized and uniform organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat. 8/

40. When the Committee considered this question at its 34th, 37th and 41st meetings on 3, 9 and 14 November, respectively, it had before it a further report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/17) as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.5).

41. At the 37th meeting, the representative of Japan introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.15) on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Venezuela:

"The General Assembly,

"Emphasizing the need for logical and coherent organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat in the interest of a more rational and functional hierarchical structure;

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/17) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.5) on the question of organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat;

"2. Endorses the direction of reform in nomenclature proposed by the Secretary-General in his report and encourages him to proceed expeditiously with implementation of the measures envisaged, taking into account the observations made by the Advisory Committee;

"3. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the implementation of measures proposed in his report;

"4. Decides to consider this question at its thirty-third session on the basis of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General;

"5. Invites the attention of intergovernmental bodies to the need to avoid recommendations giving particular designations to organizational units or their heads which may not be in conformity with the nomenclature proposed by the Secretary-General."

In so doing, the representative of Japan announced that Indonesia, Singapore and Sweden had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. At the same time, he informed the Committee that, in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the words "Invites the attention of intergovernmental bodies to the need to ..." were to be replaced by the words "Urges intergovernmental bodies to ..."

8/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 96, document A/10500, para. 224.

42. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed the following amendment (A/C.5/32/L.17) to the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.15):

(a) Rephrase operative paragraphs 2 and 3 as follows:

"2. Endorses the organizational nomenclature at levels 1 and 2 proposed by the Secretary-General in his report and encourages him to proceed with preparation of final proposals with regard to nomenclature at levels 3-6, taking into account the observations made by the Advisory Committee and the views expressed by delegations in the Fifth Committee;

"3. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a progress report on organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat;"

(b) Delete the last part of paragraph 4, beginning with the words "on the basis".

43. At the 41st meeting, the representative of Japan introduced a revised version (A/C.5/32/L.15/Rev.1) of the draft resolution and announced that Ghana, Jamaica and Panama had joined as sponsors. Subsequently, Costa Rica also joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution. In the revised draft, the text of paragraph 2 was altered to read as follows:

"Endorses the general direction of reform in nomenclature proposed by the Secretary-General in his report and encourages him to proceed expeditiously with application of the measures envisaged, taking into account the observations made by the Advisory Committee and the views expressed in the Fifth Committee;"

At the same time, the representative of Japan amended the word "implementation" in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution to read "application".

44. After a short procedural discussion, the Committee voted on the Soviet amendment (A/C.5/32/L.17), which was rejected by 22 votes to 34, with 41 abstentions.

45. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.15/Rev.1, as orally amended, by 82 votes to 13, with 5 abstentions.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

46. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.15/Rev.1, as orally amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution II).

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Comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable
to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United
Nations

47. At its 57th meeting at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-second session ^{9/} its consideration of the Secretary-General's report on this subject (A/C.5/31/2).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

48. At its 47th meeting, on 22 November 1977, the Fifth Committee decided that consideration of the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations (A/C.5/31/2) be deferred to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly (see para. 238 (b) below).

Honoraria for the members of the Human Rights Committee

49. The Committee, at its 55th meeting on 2 December, considered a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/38) entitled "Financial implications of article 35 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol", in which he proposed that, beginning in 1977, the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee should receive an annual lump-sum payment in the amount of \$2,500 and that other members should be paid \$1,000 a year each.

50. In its related report (A/32/8/Add.13), which was orally introduced by its Chairman, the Advisory Committee stated that it had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal.

51. In the course of the discussion, some delegations suggested that consideration of this item be deferred to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, when the comprehensive study made by the Secretary-General on the question of honoraria (A/C.5/31/2) would be considered, as decided by the Committee at its 47th meeting (see para. 48 above). After a short discussion, these delegations decided not to raise any objections to the adoption of a decision on this question at the current session, pending the decision to be taken at the thirty-third session on the thorough study of the question of honoraria.

52. Comments made by delegations during the discussion of this item, as well as explanations of vote, are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.55).

^{9/} Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 92, document A/31/470, para. 100 (a).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

53. At its 55th meeting, on 2 December, the Fifth Committee decided, by 66 votes to 10, with 6 abstentions, to recommend to the General Assembly that, pending a decision at the thirty-third session on the comprehensive study of honoraria (A/C.5/31/2) it should:

(a) Decide that the lump-sum payment per annum for honoraria for members of the Human Rights Committee be in the amounts of \$2,500 for the Chairman and \$1,000 for other members;

(b) Authorize that expenditures for these honoraria be increased commencing on 1 January 1977;

(c) Note that additional expenditures in the amount of \$19,500 under section 18 of the programme budget for the 1976-1977 biennium will be absorbed within available appropriations for 1976-1977;

(d) Authorize an additional appropriation under section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium in the amount of \$39,000 (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. IV).

Services provided by the United Nations to activities
funded from extrabudgetary resources

54. At its 57th meeting at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-second session its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on this subject (A/C.5/31/33 and Corr.1). 10/

55. At its 45th meeting, on 17 November 1977, the Committee had before it a further report of the Secretary-General on this subject (A/C.5/32/29 and Corr.1), in which he brought up to date information regarding developments in the intervening period and suggested possible courses of future action.

56. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.9) was introduced by its Chairman at the 45th meeting.

57. At the 47th meeting, on 22 November, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee suggested that consideration of the two above-mentioned reports be postponed to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

58. At its 47th meeting, on 22 November 1977, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to an

10/ Ibid., para. 100 (b).

oral proposal made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, decided, without objection, to postpone its consideration of the question of the services provided by the United Nations to activities financed from extrabudgetary resources, on the understanding that an ultimate decision on the subject would rest with the governing bodies of the executive agencies, and primarily with the General Assembly, and that consideration of the entire question would be given priority at the thirty-third session (see para. 238 (c) below).

Arabic language services in the United Nations

59. The question of Arabic language services in the United Nations was considered by the Committee at its 19th, 20th, 46th, 50th, 56th and 57th meetings between 18 October and 6 December.

60. For its consideration of this item, the Committee had before it a progress report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/9), in which he indicated the developments since the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, at which time the Assembly approved the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report on this subject (A/C.5/31/60).

61. At the 20th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic introduced the following draft decision (A/C.5/32/L.10) on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen:

"The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly:

"1. Take note of the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/9) concerning the Arabic language services in the United Nations and requests the Secretary-General, while continuing the speedy implementation of the organizational arrangements contained in paragraphs 15-21 of his report (A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1), to replace the present arrangement set in paragraph 25 of the said report by the establishment, as of 1 January 1978, of an Arabic Translation Section in the United Nations Office at Geneva, to which would be attached a typing unit and the function of which would be to serve UNCTAD and, on an "as available" basis, any bodies, meetings and conferences for which the General Assembly approves Arabic language services, including UNCTAD bodies other than those indicated in document A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1;

"2. Decide that, for the biennium 1978-1979, staff requirements for the said Arabic Translation Section in Geneva shall be provided by transfers, from the manning tables of the Arabic Translation Service and Stenographic Unit at Headquarters, corresponding in number and levels to the posts already established under General Assembly resolution 31/208 (VIII) of 22 December 1976, to which one established P-5 post is hereby added for a Chief of the said Section;

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"3. Invite the Secretary-General to prepare, in close consultation and co-operation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, proposals aimed at the full implementation of UNCTAD resolution 86 (IV), approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 18 of its resolution 31/159 of 20 December 1976, and to submit these proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, together with their estimated financial and administrative implications; and

"4. Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session appropriate proposals concerning measures to even out the workload of Arabic translation services provided to the General Assembly and its Main Committees as well as solutions to those problems to the continuation of which he referred in his progress report (A/C.5/32/9) especially paragraph 23."

62. At the same meeting, the United States requested, and later received from the Controller (in the form of a conference room working paper), information on the costs of language services in the United Nations, for Member States which use each language and on the financial contributions of the user States of each language.

63. At the 46th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revision (A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.1) of the draft decision, in which Saudi Arabia had joined the list of sponsors. The revised text read as follows:

"The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly:

"1. Take note of the progress report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/9) concerning the Arabic language services in the United Nations and request the Secretary-General, while continuing the speedy implementation of the organizational arrangements contained in paragraphs 15-21 of his report (A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1), to establish, as of 1 January 1978, an Arabic Translation Section in the United Nations Office at Geneva, on a permanent basis, primarily to serve UNCTAD's bodies;

"2. Request the Secretary-General to prepare, in close consultation and co-operation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, proposals aimed at the full implementation of UNCTAD resolution 86 (IV), approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 18 of its resolution 31/159 of 20 December 1976, and to submit these proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session; and

"3. Request further that the Secretary-General continue his search for, and apply, adequate methods, including advance translation of appropriate documentation and provision of temporary assistance when necessary, to assure the timely provision of Arabic translation services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and report the results to the General Assembly as appropriate."

64. The administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.1) were submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/42).

65. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic introduced a further revision of the draft decision in the form of a draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.2), which read as follows:

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"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 31/159 of 20 December 1976, in paragraph 18 of which it decided to 'include Arabic among the official and working languages of the machinery of UNCTAD, particularly all Sessions of the Conference, the Trade and Development Board and its main committees',

"Noting that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Trade and Development Board and some of its main committees have been already amended accordingly,

"Recalling that, in its resolution 31/208 (VIII) of 22 December 1976, it approved the organizational arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his report contained in document A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1 with a view to providing an initial target level of Arabic language services to UNCTAD while simultaneously alleviating some of the chronic problems facing the provision of such services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees,

"Noting, however, that, as far as Arabic translation services are concerned, the Secretary-General's progress report contained in document A/C.5/32/9 makes it clear that these organizational arrangements have failed to achieve their purported objectives both with regard to UNCTAD and to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, while admitting the uncertain nature of their future prospects,

"Recognizing the great importance the Arab States Members of the United Nations attach to the work of UNCTAD as well as their expressed need for having UNCTAD's documentation issued in Arabic in time to enable their delegations to participate constructively in its deliberations and activities,

"Convinced that an efficient, timely and less costly provision of Arabic translation services to UNCTAD can be achieved only by the installation at UNCTAD's headquarters of an adequately staffed service,

"Bearing in mind the magnitude and the urgency of the efforts needed to enable such a service to meet adequately the Arabic translation requirements of UNCTAD V to be held in 1979,

"1. Takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/32/9 of 16 August 1977 concerning Arabic Language Services in the United Nations;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, while continuing the speedy implementation of the organizational arrangements contained in paragraphs 15-21 of his report contained in document A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1 to replace the present arrangement set out in paragraph 25 of this report by establishing, as of 1 January 1978, on a permanent basis, an Arabic Translation Section in the United Nations Office at Geneva, primarily to serve UNCTAD's bodies and, as an initial step, to provide the staff requirements for this Section, for

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the biennium 1978-1979, by transferring to this Section the posts already established under General Assembly resolution 31/208 (VIII) of 22 December 1976, with the addition of a post of Chief of Section;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in close consultation and co-operation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, proposals aimed at the full implementation of UNCTAD resolution 86 (IV), approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 18 of its resolution 31/159 of 20 December 1976, and to submit these proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

"4. Requests further that the Secretary-General continue his search for, and apply, adequate methods, including advance translation of appropriate documentation and provision of temporary assistance when necessary, to assure the timely provision of Arabic translation services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and report the results to the General Assembly as appropriate."

66. The administrative and financial implications of the revised draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.2) were submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/42/Rev.1).

67. The Committee also had before it the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.17) on the Secretary-General's statement of administrative and financial implications.

68. At the 56th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the sponsors, offered to amend operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.2) by deleting from the sixth line onwards the portion following the words "... UNCTAD's bodies". This amendment was withdrawn by the sponsors at the 57th meeting.

69. Subsequently, it was announced that Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya and Pakistan had joined the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

70. An oral suggestion by the representative of Pakistan to replace the words "failed to achieve" in the third preambular paragraph by the words "not sufficiently achieved" was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

71. At the 57th meeting, on 6 December 1977, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.2, as amended by 89 votes to none, with 13 abstentions.

72. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America introduced the following draft decision (A/C.5/32/L.30):

"The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it: Request the Secretary-General to make a study of: (a) organizational and functional implications of improvement in the provision of language services and (b) alternate means of defraying language costs, including a user pay system, and to report with recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. The General Assembly further decides to include an item on Language Services on the agenda for the thirty-third session."

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73. After a short discussion on the draft decision, the representative of the United States agreed to withdraw it on the understanding that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on implications of additional languages in the United Nations system (A/32/237), as well as the related report of the Secretary-General, would take into account the discussion which had taken place on the draft proposal in the Fifth Committee.

74. Comments made by delegations as well as by the representative of the Secretary-General in the course of the discussion are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.19, 20, 46, 50, 56 and 57).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

75. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.10/Rev.2, as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution III).

Establishment of an information services unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

76. At its 57th meeting at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-second session ^{11/} its consideration of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/31/69), in which he proposed the establishment of an information services unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the purpose of making accessible to the Department and other potential users selected information of lasting value contained in unpublished reports available in the Department.

77. The Committee considered this question at its 27th, 28th and 58th meetings on 26 and 27 October and 7 December 1977, respectively.

78. In its related report (A/32/256), introduced by its Chairman at the 27th meeting, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested additional information from the Secretary-General on the volume and nature of the data of permanent value available in unpublished material.

79. At the 58th meeting, in response to the Advisory Committee's request, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/47), in paragraph 5 of which it was proposed that, while the inventory of the existing material was being conducted, the information should be processed in such a way as to be "computer-ready", should such a technique prove appropriate in due course.

80. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the note of the Secretary-General appeared in the addendum to its report (A/256/Add.1), which was introduced by its Chairman at the same meeting.

^{11/} Ibid., para. 100 (f).

81. The comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this question, as well as the replies to queries made by the representatives of the Secretary-General are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.27, 28 and 58).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

82. At its 58th meeting, on 7 December 1977, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should:

(a) Take note of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/256 and Add.1) on the question of the establishment of an information services unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

(b) Decide that the acceptance by the Secretary-General of the offer of voluntary funds in 1978-1979 would not imply any commitment on the part of the Organization subsequently to transfer the costs of the operation to the regular budget;

(c) Authorize the Secretary-General to proceed in accordance with the proposal contained in paragraph 5 of his report (A/C.5/32/47);

(d) Request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on progress with respect to the work carried out in 1978, so that the Assembly can pronounce itself on whether computerization should be undertaken (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. V).

Recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

83. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its 18th, 50th, 53rd, 55th, 59th, 60th and 63rd meetings between 17 October and 14 December 1977.

84. For its consideration of this item, the Committee had before it the report of CPC on the work of its seventeenth session, 12/ the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/26 and Corr.1) on the implications of the recommendations of CPC and the related report (A/32/8/Add.14) of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

12/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/32/38).

85. The Chairman of CPC introduced that Committee's report in an oral statement (A/C.5/32/23) before the Fifth Committee at its 18th meeting.

86. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the Advisory Committee's report (A/32/8/Add.14) at the 50th meeting, on 25 November.

87. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft decision (A/C.5/32/L.18 and Corr.1) on behalf of Austria, Egypt, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania and Yugoslavia, and, at the same time, announced that Senegal had decided to join the co-sponsors. The draft decision read as follows:

"The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly:

"Taking into account the decision of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its seventeenth session to consider in depth at its eighteenth session, inter alia, the programme of social development and humanitarian affairs (para. 4 of document A/32/38),

"Decides to defer to its thirty-third session consideration of the recommendations in paragraph 23 (b) and (c) of the report of the CPC (A/32/38) concerning termination or curtailment of certain programme elements in the above-mentioned programme."

88. At the 55th meeting on 2 December, the representative of Nepal introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.24) on behalf of Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal, Panama, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey.

"The General Assembly,

"Noting with appreciation the recommendations of CPC, contained in its report on the work of its seventeenth session,

"Noting further the implications of CPC recommendations in respect of public information programmes,

"1. Decides to continue the publication of the Chronicle on a monthly basis, while ensuring the timely issuance of its French and Spanish versions;

"2. Decides to defer consideration of CPC recommendations on short-wave broadcasting to Africa, Middle East and Europe, and invites the Consultative Panel for Public Information to consider this question in the light of relevant information and make its expert views known to CPC, through the Secretary-General, at its eighteenth session."

At the same time, he indicated some editorial changes in the draft resolution, and announced that Peru and Venezuela had decided to join the co-sponsors.

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89. At the 58th meeting, on 7 December, the representative of Belgium introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.31):

"The General Assembly,

"1. Recalling its resolution 31/93 on the medium-term plan, which endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) on the relative growth rates of major United Nations programmes for the 1978-1979 budget period;

"2. Recalling also the Economic and Social Council resolution 2098 (LXIII) endorsing the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its seventeenth session.

I

"1. Confirms that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, by virtue of its review of both the medium-term plan and the programme aspects of the programme budget, is the main subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination, with the perspective necessary to make recommendations on the relative priorities of United Nations programmes;

"2. Urges subsidiary bodies to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes, as outlined in the medium-term plan;

"3. Requests such bodies to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence.

II

"1. Authorizes the CPC to hold, if necessary, a resumed session, between the conclusion of the summer session of the Economic and Social Council and the convening of the General Assembly, in order to provide a programme review of those proposals which are specifically designated by the appropriate intergovernmental bodies as responding to 'a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature', thus falling into the category of exceptions to the normal programming procedures established in resolution 31/93, and characterized in paragraph 6 of that resolution;

"2. Decides that the Secretary-General should inform the CPC, in the course of its deliberations, of the programme and resource implications of its recommendations.

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III

"1. Notes the methodology described by the CPC in paragraph 3 of the report on its seventeenth session for improving its determinations of relative growth rates;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to implement, in the light of the relevant recommendations of the CPC and in the most appropriate manner, the relative growth rates adopted by the General Assembly;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to show, for each programme in his proposed programme-budget, programme elements representing a total of approximately 10 per cent of the resources requested, to which the highest priority is to be assigned. The Secretary-General should also show, for each proposed programme, programme elements representing a total of approximately 10 per cent of the resources requested to which the lowest priority is to be assigned;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the final performance report on the implementation of his programme budget an analysis of any significant discrepancies between the output in his proposed programme-budget and that actually delivered.

IV

"Approves the remaining recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2098 (LXIII)."

90. At the same meeting, the representative of Belgium introduced the following amendment (A/C.5/32/L.34) to the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.24):

"Replace paragraph 1 by the following:

"1. Decides to continue on a monthly basis the publication of the Chronicle, whose English, French and Spanish versions should be issued simultaneously."

91. At the 59th meeting, on 8 December, the representative of India, on behalf of his delegation, orally proposed that the Committee should:

(a) Approve the draft resolution recommended by CPC in paragraph 1 of its report; 13/

(b) Decide not to take any decision on those recommendations of CPC which have financial implications; and

(c) Decide not to vote on draft resolutions A/C.5/32/L.18 and Corr.1, A/C.5/32/L.24 and A/C.5/32/L.31.

92. The representative of India subsequently submitted the following draft decision (A/C.5/32/L.39):

"The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it:

"Accept the CPC recommendations on the decentralization of transport, in the light of paragraph 16 of the ACABQ report (A/32/8/Add.14) and authorizes the Secretary-General to submit, through CPC and the Advisory Committee, to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, programme proposals for increased activity in the transport programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and revised estimates up to the total resources to be decentralized;"

It was the understanding of the Committee that the draft decision was to be considered as an amendment to India's second oral proposal.

93. At the 63rd meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.40) on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, India, the Netherlands and Trinidad and Tobago:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling that the Economic and Social Council, in the annex to its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, set out the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, paragraph 2 (a) (ii) of which states that the Committee shall 'recommend an order to priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the Medium-Term Plan',

"Recalling also paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 on the Medium-Term Plan,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 dealing with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its seventeenth session (A/32/38),

"Noting also the report by the Secretary-General on the implications of the recommendations of the CPC (A/C.5/32/26 and Corr.1) and the relevant comments of the ACABQ (A/32/8/Add.14),

I

"1. Confirms that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, by virtue of its review of both the Medium-Term Plan and the programme aspects of the Programme Budget, is the main subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination, with the perspective necessary to make recommendations on the relative priorities of United Nations programmes;

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"2. Urges subsidiary bodies to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes, as outlined in the Medium-Term Plan;

"3. Requests such bodies to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective field of competence;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to give all assistance to CPC in its work inter alia in connexion with the recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report of the CPC on its seventeenth session, and in particular so as to enable the Committee to assess the implications of its recommendations;

II

"5. Notes the methodology described by the CPC in paragraph 3 of the report on its seventeenth session (A/32/38) for improving its determination of relative growth rates;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to implement in the light of the relevant recommendations and comments of CPC and in the most appropriate manner, the relative growth rates accepted by the General Assembly as the framework of programme priorities;

"7. Considers that the CPC while proposing priorities in its programme review should continue to limit its recommendations to ranges of growth;

"8. Invites the CPC, in its review of the Medium-Term Plan at its eighteenth session, to take into account the above-mentioned consideration;

III

"9. Accepts the CPC recommendations on the decentralization of certain transport activities, in the light of paragraph 16 of the ACABQ report (A/32/8/Add.14), and authorizes the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions concerned, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, programme proposals for increased activity in the transport programmes of ECA, ECLA, ECWA and ESCAP and revised estimates to that end;

"10. Decides, in the light of additional information provided to the General Assembly and of subsequent developments, to defer consideration of those other recommendations of the CPC dealing with programme transfers and reductions until the thirty-third session of the General Assembly."

In so doing, he stated that the draft resolution was the result of protracted negotiations and represented a consensus among interested parties. It was proposed on the understanding that it would be replacing all of the draft proposals

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(A/C.5/32/L.18, A/C.5/32/L.24, A/C.5/32/L.31, A/C.5/32/L.34 and A/C.5/32/L.39) before the Committee on this question. At the same time, he announced that Nepal had decided to join the sponsors of the draft resolution. At a later stage of the discussion, Egypt announced that it had also decided to join the list of sponsors.

94. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed the deletion of paragraph 9 in section III of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.40). He explained that, as a direct consequence of his proposed amendment, paragraph 10 would become paragraph 9 and the words "those other" in that paragraph would be replaced by the word "the".

95. The sponsors of the draft resolution orally proposed instead to amend paragraph 9 of section III to read as follows:

"9. Authorizes the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions concerned, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, in the light of the CPC recommendations and of paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, through the Economic and Social Council, programme proposals for increased activity in the transport programmes of ECA, ECLA, ECWA and ESCAP and revised estimates to that end."

Paragraph 10 would then read as amended by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

96. The representative of Algeria orally proposed, and the sponsors accepted, the insertion of the words "the CPC recommendations" after the words "in the light of" in the same paragraph.

97. At the same meeting, draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.40, as amended, was approved by the Committee by consensus.

98. Comments made and reservations expressed by delegations in the course of the discussion of this subject, as well as statements made by the representative of the Secretary-General, are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.18, 50, 53, 55, 58, 59 and 63).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

99. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it approve the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.40, as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution IV).

Honorarium of Chairman of the Advisory Committee
on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

100. The Committee considered the question of the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its 64th and 67th meetings on 15 and 17 December respectively.

101. For its consideration of this question, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/92) submitted pursuant to section X of General Assembly resolution 31/208 of 22 December 1976, wherein the Secretary-General was requested "to review, within the context of the draft programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, the amount of the honorarium received by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to report thereon to the General Assembly".

102. In his report, the Secretary-General reviewed the background of the current honorarium payable to the Chairman since it was established at \$25,000 net per annum under General Assembly resolution 2889 (XXVI) of 22 December 1971, and examined the position of three groups of officials who serve on a full-time basis but are not members of the Secretariat.

103. In paragraph 23 of his report (A/C.5/32/92), the Secretary-General proposed that, depending on the decision to be taken by the General Assembly as to the status and level of remuneration to be granted to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the level of the post of the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee be reclassified from D-1 to D-2.

104. At the 64th meeting, the representative of the Netherlands introduced the following draft decision (A/C.5/32/L.42) on behalf of Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Turkey and the Upper Volta:

"The Fifth Committee,

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document A/C.5/32/92,

"Decides to establish the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the level of \$59,000 annually effective 1 January 1978."

In so doing, he announced that Togo had joined the list of sponsors.

105. At the 67th meeting, the representative of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors, announced that they had decided to amend the second paragraph of the draft decision by replacing the figure "\$59,000" by the figure "\$50,000" in light of the decision taken by the Committee in draft decision A/C.5/32/L.46 on the subject of "compensation for certain officers not members of the Secretariat serving the General Assembly on a continuing basis" (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X). He also announced that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had decided to join the list of sponsors.

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106. The comments made and reservations expressed by delegations in the course of the discussion of this question are reflected in the summary records of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.64 and 67).

107. At its 67th meeting on 17 December, the Committee decided to adopt draft decision A/C.5/32/L.44, as amended, by consensus, and approved an amount of \$50,000 for this purpose under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

108. The Committee also decided, without objection, to approve the reclassification of the level of the post of the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee from D-1 to D-2, and approved an amount of \$10,400 for this purpose under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

109. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it should:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document A/C.5/32/92; and

(b) Decide to establish the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the level of \$50,000 annually effective 1 January 1978 (see para. 239, draft resolution X, sect. VI).

Financial implications of the decision of the World Food Council at a special session held on 16 November 1977

110. At its 68th meeting, the Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General on this subject (A/C.5/32/74), in which he informed the General Assembly that, at a special session held on 16 November 1977, the World Food Council decided to request that steps be taken to upgrade the post of Executive Director of the World Food Council from its present level of Assistant Secretary-General to Under-Secretary-General.

111. In its related report (A/32/8/Add.27), introduced by its Chairman in an oral statement, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions noted that the Secretary-General had not expressed an opinion on the matter and that he had confined himself to transmitting the request of the World Food Council. In addition, the reasons which prompted the Council to make the request were not given in the Secretary-General's note. Under these circumstances, the Advisory Committee was unable to recommend approval of the proposed upgrading.

112. At its 68th meeting, on 18 December, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to approve the conclusion of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that, under the circumstances, it could not recommend approval of the proposed upgrading of the post of Executive Director of the World Food Council.

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Status of classification projects

113. The Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/57) on the status of classification projects at its 69th meeting.

114. In his note, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly of the form of the classification systems that are being established for posts at the Professional level and for posts at the General Service level at Geneva before these systems are implemented. The Secretary-General intended to submit a full report on the matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/27 of 29 November 1976.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

115. At its 69th meeting, on 19 December, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the note of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/57) on the status of classification projects (see para. 239, below, draft resolution X, sect. VII).

Inclusion of Arabic as an official language of the Third
General Conference of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization (UNIDO)

116. At its 65th meeting, on 15 December, the Fifth Committee approved, by consensus, a proposal made by Egypt that Arabic be included as an official language of the Third General Conference of UNIDO.

117. At its 68th meeting, on 18 December, the Committee considered the statement by the Secretary-General of the administrative and financial implications of the inclusion of Arabic as an official language of the Conference (A/C.5/32/111). In his statement, the Secretary-General estimated that the total cost of including Arabic as one of the official languages of the Conference was estimated at an amount of \$208,500, of which an amount of \$44,800 would be required for pre-session documentation.

118. In an oral statement, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated that the Advisory Committee recommended that, should the General Assembly decide to include Arabic as an official language of the Conference, the additional appropriation of \$44,800 requested by the Secretary-General under section 12 for the 1978-1979 biennium could be absorbed; it agreed that a request for the balance of the total resources required for servicing the Conference in 1980 should be resubmitted by the Secretary-General at the thirty-third session.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

119. At its 68th meeting, on 18 December, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it should approve the inclusion of Arabic as an official language of the Third General Conference of UNIDO (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. VIII).

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FIRST READING

120. The paragraphs which follow under this heading reflect action taken by the Committee on proposals made by delegations under certain sections in the course of first reading with respect to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 14/ and the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979. 15/

Section 11A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

121. The Committee considered the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for UNCTAD under section 11A for the 1978-1979 biennium, in first reading, at its 25th, 26th, 28th and 31st meetings, on 25, 26, 27 October and 1 November. The Committee also had before it the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

122. At the 31st meeting, the representative of India orally proposed the addition to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of one post at the P-5 level (\$49,200) which had been included in the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

123. At the 31st meeting, on 1 November 1977, the Committee decided by 80 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions, to adopt the proposal of India.

124. The amount recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 11A (\$33,067,700), as amended by the Indian proposal (\$49,200) and totalling \$33,116,900, was approved in first reading by the Committee by 103 votes to 9.

Section 12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

125. The Committee considered the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for UNIDO under section 12 for the 1978-1979 biennium, in first reading, at its 29th to 31st meetings, from 28 October to 1 November. The Committee also had before it the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

14/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6 and Corr.1 and 2).

15/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

126. At the 30th meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed that the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for section 12 be reduced by \$1 million.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

127. At the 31st meeting, on 1 November 1977, the Committee accepted without objection an oral proposal made by Egypt that the Committee should vote in the first instance on the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee for this section.

128. The Committee then approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee by 86 votes to 10.

Section 21. Public information

129. The Committee considered the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for section 21, Public information at its 40th, 41st, 44th and 45th meetings, on 11, 14, 16 and 17 November. It also had before it the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report to the General Assembly on the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium.

130. At the 40th meeting, the representative of Chad orally proposed approval of two posts, one at the P-3 level and one General Service post, which were requested by the Secretary-General for the French language programme in the Press and Publications Division but not recommended for approval by the Advisory Committee.

131. At the 41st meeting, the representative of Togo supported the proposal of Chad and further proposed that the Secretary-General's request for a post at the P-3 level for the External Relations Division which was not recommended for approval by the Advisory Committee be granted. Togo subsequently withdrew the latter proposal at the 45th meeting.

132. At the 44th meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally proposed that the Secretary-General's request for five posts, one each at the levels P-4, P-3 and P-2 and two General Service posts be transferred from extrabudgetary funds to the regular budget for the Centre for Economic and Social Information should not be approved. In addition, the United States orally proposed that the estimate proposed for the issuance of the Yearbook of the United Nations during the biennium be reduced by \$17,200.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

133. At the 45th meeting, on 17 November 1977, the Fifth Committee voted as follows:

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(a) The proposal of the United States of America regarding the disallowance of the five posts to be transferred to the regular budget for CESI, amounting to a reduction of \$203,800 in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee was rejected by 74 votes to 9, with 12 abstentions;

(b) The proposal of the United States of America for a reduction of \$17,200 from the estimate proposed for the issuance of the Yearbook was rejected by 63 votes to 9, with 23 abstentions;

(c) The proposal of Chad for the reinstatement of two posts in the Press and Publications Division, amounting to an increase over the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of \$54,100 was approved by 74 votes to 13, with 11 abstentions;

(d) The Committee then approved an amount of \$36,393,700 for this section in first reading by 94 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.

Section 23. Conference and library services

134. The Committee considered the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for Conference and library services under section 23 for the 1978-1979 biennium, in first reading, at its 21st, 26th, 28th to 31st meetings, between 20 October to 1 November 1977. The related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 were also before the Committee.

135. The related recommendations of the Advisory Committee were introduced by its Chairman at the 21st meeting.

136. At the 26th meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally proposed that the estimates requested by the Secretary-General for this section be reduced by 5 per cent for a total of \$135,017,000.

137. At the 30th meeting, in response to requests by several delegations, the representative of the United States indicated the justification for the reductions his delegation had proposed under section 23.

138. At the 31st meeting, following an oral proposal by Pakistan, the United States agreed that its proposals should be referred to the Committee on Conferences for a study of all their implications, and that the Committee on Conferences should report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

139. The Committee then approved in first reading the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for section 23 in the amount of \$140,072,400 by 92 votes to 10.

140. The comments made by delegations during the discussion of this item, as well as the statements made by the representatives of the Secretary-General are reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/32/SR.21, 26, 28-31).

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Section 10. Economic Commission for Western Asia

141. The Committee considered the Secretary-General's proposed estimates for ECWA under section 10 in first reading at its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 15 and 16 November 1977, together with the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium.

142. The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was introduced by its Chairman at the 42nd meeting.

143. The Executive Secretary of ECWA addressed the Committee at the same meeting.

144. At the 43rd meeting, after some discussion on this subject in the course of which some delegations expressed concern with regard to the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee for ECWA, the representative of France orally proposed that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to this section should be recommended for approval on the understanding that the Secretary-General should review the situation of ECWA and, if necessary, request additional appropriations in 1978.

145. The representative of Yemen orally proposed that, in addition to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, an additional post at the D-1 level, as requested by the Secretary-General, should be established for the head of the Population Division of ECWA.

146. Comments made and reservations expressed by delegations in the course of the discussion of this section are reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/32/SR.42 and 43).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

147. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 November 1977, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, including the reclassification of the post of Executive Secretary of ECWA, and to approve an additional post at the D-1 level for the head of the Population Division of ECWA, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would review the ECWA situation and, if necessary, request additional appropriations in 1978.

Section 9. Economic Commission for Africa

148. The Committee considered the Secretary-General's proposed estimates for ECA under section 9 in first reading at its 42nd, 43rd and 45th meetings, on 15, 16 and 17 November, together with the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report on the proposed programme budget.

149. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced that Committee's report at the 42nd meeting.

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150. At the 45th meeting, the representative of the Upper Volta proposed that the sum of \$100,000, by which the Advisory Committee had reduced the Secretary-General's estimate for communications, should be reinstated.

151. The comments made by delegations, the explanations of vote as well as the replies to queries made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the representative of the Secretary-General are reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/32/SR.42, 43 and 45).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

152. At its 45th meeting, on 17 November 1977, the Fifth Committee decided, by 84 votes to 10, with 5 abstentions, to add the sum of \$100,000, as proposed by the Upper Volta, to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium.

Technical innovations in the publication and documentation of the United Nations

153. At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly decided to postpone to its thirty-second session its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/31/77) on this subject. 16/

154. At its 49th and 51st meetings, on 23 and 29 November, the Fifth Committee considered an updated report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/11) in which he proposed revised estimates under section 23A for the installation of technological innovations in the production of publications and documentation in the United Nations.

155. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.12) was introduced by its Chairman at the 49th meeting.

156. At its 51st meeting, the representative of Nepal introduced draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.20, sponsored by Canada, Nepal and Pakistan, later joined by Nigeria, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Concerned about significant costs accruing to all Member States, including direct costs to themselves as well as charges to the United Nations which result from current methods of producing and distributing documentation and publications of the United Nations,

16/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 92, document A/31/470, para. 100 (h).

"1. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts and initiatives to improve documentation and publications services;

"2. Concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report A/32/8/Add.12 to pursue measures proposed by the Secretary-General with regard to technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to explore and recommend additional measures to improve and expedite the production and distribution of documentation and publications using a cautious, step-by-step approach. In particular he should study:

"(a) The means to ensure publication of the full official record of sessions of the General Assembly;

"(b) Increased revenue from the sale of the documentation and publications programme in recognition of the improved service;

"(c) Further limitations on free distribution of documents and publications;

"(d) Installation of modern facilities to improve in-session availability of important documents;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session through the Committee on Conferences on progress achieved in the implementation of approved measures, on results of further studies, and on recommendations for additional measures to improve documentation and publications services, always bearing in mind the need for cost-effective approach."

157. The Committee also had before it the following proposed amendments (A/C.5/32/L.22) to the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

(a) "Insert new paragraph 4 as follows:

4. Requests the Secretary-General, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report A/32/8/Add.12, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions a clear estimate of the timing and amount of the quantifiable costs and benefits of the project, broken down into its component elements, and indicating the balance of financial advantage in the case of each component element;

and renumber former paragraph 4 as paragraph 5.

(b) "In the second and third lines of new paragraph 5, replace 'Committee on Conferences' by 'Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions'.

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(c) "In the sixth and seventh lines of new paragraph 5, replace 'always bearing in mind the need for a cost-effective approach' by 'subject to the conclusions of the cost-benefit analysis requested in operative paragraph 4 of this resolution'."

158. When the representative of Nepal introduced the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.20) he announced that Nigeria, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago had joined the list of sponsors.

159. At the same time, the representative of Nepal informed the Committee that the sponsors had decided to revise paragraph 4 of the draft resolution to read as follows:

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on progress achieved in the implementation of approved measures, on results of further studies, and on recommendations for additional measures to improve documentation and publications services."

160. The representative of the United Kingdom subsequently withdrew his delegation's amendment in the light of the revisions made to paragraph 4 by the sponsors of the draft resolution, which made it implicit that the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as laid down in rule 157 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, would be maintained, and on the understanding that a cost-benefit analysis was implicit in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

161. At its 51st meeting, the Committee approved by 69 votes to 10, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$314,700 under section 23A, as recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Committee also adopted draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.20, as amended, without objection.

162. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this item, as well as explanations of vote, are reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/32/SR.49 and 51).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

163. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should adopt draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.20, as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution V).

Section 17. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

164. The Committee considered the question of the financing of emergency relief assistance and technical co-operation activities under section 17. The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization at its 34th, 51st and 55th meetings, on 3 and 29 November and 2 December.

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165. In his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, the Secretary-General proposed an amount of \$2,539,700 for UNDRO, which included an amount of \$400,000 for emergency relief assistance for natural disasters.

166. At the 34th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as they appeared in its first report of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 wherein it recommended a reduction in the amount of \$159,500 in the Secretary-General's estimate. It also proposed deletion of the \$400,000 for emergency relief assistance included under this section.

167. When the Committee considered the estimates of the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, at its 51st meeting, it also had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/49 and Corr.1) in which he reported on the status of the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 for the purpose of strengthening UNDRO. In paragraphs 8 and 9 of his report, the Secretary-General stated that, until such time as voluntary funds were contributed in sufficient quantity to the subaccount for emergency assistance, he had no alternative but to reiterate his request for an appropriation of \$400,000 for emergency assistance for the biennium 1978-1979.

168. At the 51st meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stated that the Advisory Committee had discussed the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/32/49 and Corr.1) and in view of the statement in paragraph 9 of the report it had no objection to the approval of the Secretary-General's initial request for an appropriation of \$400,000 under section 17 for the biennium 1978-1979.

169. At the same meeting, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the delegations of the Nordic countries, orally proposed that the Committee approve the proposals of the Secretary-General under section 17, and that the provision of \$400,000 for emergency relief assistance should be maintained in the regular budget as long as there was no reasonable guarantee that the activities could be financed from voluntary contributions.

170. The comments made during the discussion of this question as well as the explanation of vote are reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/32/SR.34, 51 and 54).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

171. At the 55th meeting, pursuant to a proposal by the representative of France, the Committee voted first on the inclusion of the amount of \$400,000 in the regular budget. Inclusion of the amount was approved by 74 votes to 11.

172. The Committee then voted for the restoration of an amount of \$159,500 which represented the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 17. Restoration of the amount of \$159,500 under section 17 was approved by 79 votes to 3.

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United Nations accommodation in Nairobi

173. The Committee considered this question at its 49th, 51st, 54th, 55th and 57th meetings, from 23 November to 6 December, when it considered in first reading the revised estimates under section 13, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

174. The Committee had before it for its consideration a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/19 and Add.1) in paragraph 32 of which, inter alia, he proposed that the General Assembly should accept the offer of the Government of Kenya for a free grant of the site at Gigiri, Nairobi of approximately 40 hectares (100 acres) for the construction of the permanent headquarters of UNEP, and that it should approve in principle the project at a total estimated cost of \$23,547,000. The cost of the project would be phased out over a period of three biennia beginning with an appropriation of \$4,541,000 under section 26. Construction, alteration and major maintenance of the proposed estimates for the 1978-1979 biennium. A breakdown of the total cost estimates for the project appeared in paragraph 26 of the report.

175. In its related report (A/32/8/Add.10), which was introduced by its Chairman at the 49th meeting, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the General Assembly approve in principle the construction project and that it take note of the estimated total construction cost (excluding the cost of the headquarters planning unit) as proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 26 of his report (A/C.5/32/19).

176. At the 51st meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally proposed that the report of the Advisory Committee be returned to that Committee for a more thorough review of the subject, and that the question of the United Nations accommodation in Nairobi be deferred to the thirty-third session at which time the Advisory Committee should submit a new report on the subject.

177. At the 54th meeting, the representative of India introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.25), sponsored by Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Sweden, Uganda and Zambia:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 3004 (XXVII) in which it decided to locate the environment secretariat in a developing country and further decided to locate it in Nairobi, Kenya,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodations in Nairobi 17/ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 18/

"2. Accepts with appreciation the generous grant by the Government of Kenya of the site at Gigiri, Nairobi, upon which to construct the project, subject to a suitable agreement between the Secretary-General and the Government;

17/ A/C.5/32/19 and A/C.5/32/19/Add.1.

18/ A/32/8/Add.10.

"3. Concurs in the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee; 19/

"4. Approves in principle the construction of permanent headquarters facilities for UNEP and accommodations for the other United Nations offices in Nairobi;

"5. Authorizes the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, to proceed in accordance with the recommendations contained in his report; 20/

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly annually on the progress made on the construction of the project."

It was subsequently announced that Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Upper Volta had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

178. At the 57th meeting, the representative of the United States of America announced that his delegation would defer to the wishes expressed by other delegations and would withdraw its oral proposal, but requested a separate vote on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.25) before the Committee.

179. Pursuant to oral proposals made by the Philippines and India, the words "on the progress made on the construction of the project" in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution were replaced by the words "on the status of the project".

180. The Committee then voted separately on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, which was adopted by 97 votes to 10. The draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.25) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 98 votes to 9, with 1 abstention.

181. The Committee then approved, by 96 votes to 9, with 1 abstention, additional appropriations in a net amount of \$4,260,000 representing the estimated cost of the construction project for the biennium 1978-1979.

182. The comments made in the course of the discussion of this question are reflected in the summary records of the meetings (A/C.5/32/SR.49, 51, 54, 55 and 57).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

183. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should approve draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.25, as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution VI).

19/ Ibid., paras. 10-29.

20/ A/C.5/32/19, para. 32.

Expansion of the membership of the Advisory Committee for the Application
of Science and Technology to Development

184. At its 68th meeting, on 18 December 1977, the Committee considered the financial implications of the Economic and Social Council draft resolution (E/L.1793) in which it decided to enlarge the membership of the Advisory Committee for the Application of Science and Technology to Development from 24 to 28 members, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and the desirability of increasing the participation in it of developing countries from all regions, as recommended in its resolution 2033 (LXI) of 4 August 1976.

185. In his statement of financial implications (A/C.5/32/107), the Secretary-General requested an additional appropriation under section 4 of \$23,600 for first-class travel and subsistence of the four additional members of the Committee.

186. In an oral statement, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions informed the Fifth Committee that the Advisory Committee recommended that the amount requested by the Secretary-General be absorbed and that, should the Secretary-General experience any difficulty in that regard, he should be permitted to report to the General Assembly in the context of his performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

187. Comments made in the course of the discussion of this question in the Committee are reflected in the summary record of the meeting (A/C.5/32/SR.68).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

188. The Fifth Committee agreed, without objection, that no additional appropriation would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 as a result of the decision of the Economic and Social Council in draft resolution E/L.1793.

Financial implications resulting from the decisions of the
Trade and Development Board at its ninth special session
and the first part of its seventeenth session

189. At its 68th meeting, on 18 December 1977, the Committee considered the statement of the Secretary-General on the financial implications resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board at its ninth special session and the first part of its seventeenth session (A/C.5/32/105).

190. The Chairman of the Fifth Committee noted that the decisions of the Trade and Development Board would impose no additional requirements on the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

191. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it should take note of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/105) on the financial implications resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board at its ninth special session and the first part of its seventeenth session (see para. 239, draft resolution X, sect. IX).

Reclassification of posts to levels P-5 and D-1

192. In paragraph 90 of chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, 21/ the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended approval of five reclassification of posts from P-4 to P-5 out of 10 requested by the Secretary-General, and four reclassification of posts from P-5 to D-1 out of eight requested by the Secretary-General without giving an indication of which posts were recommended for reclassification.

193. At the 21st meeting, on 20 October 1977, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee suggested that decisions taken by the Committee on individual sections of the budget in first reading should exclude any appropriations required for the above-mentioned reclassifications pending a clarification as to which posts were to be reclassified.

194. At its 64th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/83), in which he stated that, in light of additional information provided to the Advisory Committee, it had given its concurrence to certain of the reclassifications as enumerated in paragraph 2 of his note. In order to give effect to these reclassifications, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$110,900 would be required under the relevant sections of the budget, to be offset by an amount of \$7,100 under income section 1.

195. The comments made by delegations during the discussion of this question as well as the explanations of vote are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.64).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

196. At its 64th meeting, on 15 December 1977, the Fifth Committee decided to take note of the reclassifications from P-4 to P-5 and from P-5 to D-1 (A/C.5/32/83). It approved by 68 votes to 11, with 3 abstentions, an amount of \$102,900 under sections 2, 3, 5A, 7, 8, 16 and 22, and an amount of \$7,100 under section 25 to be offset by an equal amount under income section 1.

21/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

Section 22. Administrative, Management and General Services

197. At the 67th meeting, on 17 December 1977, in the course of the first reading of section 22 (Administration, Management and General Services), the Committee acted upon several proposals, which are reflected in the paragraphs that follow.

198. In paragraph 22.55 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, 22/ the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, referring to the Secretary-General's proposed arrangements for a combined Internal Audit and Management Improvement Service, as described in paras. 22.123-22.137 of the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium, stated that "... the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the maintenance of an adequate and capable management improvement service, as intended by resolution 31/94 C, would require an arrangement somewhat different from that now proposed by the Secretary-General. In particular, the Committee is concerned that the important concept of a small corps of qualified experts, dealing with management problems, whose independence and effectiveness is assured through a line of direct responsibility of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management might become more difficult to sustain within the larger context of the proposed new Service." 23/

199. Based on a proposal made by the representative of Japan at the 61st meeting as a result of consultations with interested delegations, the Fifth Committee took the following decision without objection.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

200. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it should:

(a) Take note of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 22.55 of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, 24/ as well as the views expressed in the Fifth Committee on this question, which the Secretary-General is invited to take into account; in the meantime, the present organizational arrangements will be maintained.

(b) Decide to return to and consider the questions raised by the Advisory Committee and by delegations at its thirty-third session in the context of the "review of the question of administrative and management control of the United Nations", which will be on the agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/94 C. It is its understanding that all options will be open to the Fifth Committee when it considers this matter at that time (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. X).

22/ Ibid.

23/ Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6 and Corr.1 and 2).

24/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

201. In his revised estimates for section 22 L.1 (International Civil Service Commission) (A/C.5/32/28), the Secretary-General proposed that the honorarium of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission be increased by \$9,000 to an amount of \$54,000 per annum as from 1 January 1978 and requested an additional amount of \$36,000 for the biennium 1978-1979 for that purpose. In its related report (A/32/8/Add.11), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions agreed to the Secretary-General's proposal, with certain observations reflected in paragraphs 7 and 8 of its report.

202. At the 67th meeting, the representative of the United States of America introduced the following draft decision on behalf of his delegation:

"Compensation for certain officers serving the
General Assembly"

"The General Assembly,

"Decides to reconsider at its thirty-third regular session the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to compensation for the two full-term Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission contained in document A/C.5/32/28 and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee in document A/32/8/Add.11,

"Requests the Secretary-General, with such impartial advice as he deems desirable, to prepare a study on the conditions of service and compensation appropriate for those officers serving the General Assembly, other than Secretariat officials, whose terms and conditions of selection, duties and responsibilities preclude active engagement by governmental, intergovernmental or other specified entities."

In so doing he called attention to the first paragraph of the draft decision and informed the Committee that the words "without prejudice to the possibility of retroactive action on these proposals" should be added to the end of that paragraph.

203. In the discussion that followed, a number of oral amendments were proposed by Japan, Nigeria, Turkey, Ghana and the United Republic of Cameroon, as a result of which the draft decision was orally revised by the United States of America (see para. 206 below).

204. The Committee then adopted the draft decision of the United States of America, as amended, by consensus.

205. The comments made by delegations during the discussion of the draft decision as well as the full account of amendments proposed are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.67).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

206. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly, with regard to compensation for certain officers, not members of the Secretariat, serving the Assembly on a continuing basis, should:

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(a) Decide to consider on a priority basis at its thirty-third regular session the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to compensation for the two full-time Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission contained in document A/C.5/32/28 and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document A/32/8/Add.11, without prejudice to the possibility of retroactive action on these proposals;

(b) Request the Secretary-General, with such advice as he deems desirable, to prepare, in the context of the "comprehensive study of the question of honoraria", a study of the conditions of service and compensation appropriate for those officers serving the General Assembly, other than Secretariat officials, whose terms and conditions of selection, duties and responsibilities preclude active engagement by governmental, intergovernmental or other specified entities (see para. 239 below, draft resolution X, sect. XI).

207. With regard to the estimates for the International School of the United Nations, under section 22 C, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at the 67th meeting, introduced the following draft resolution on behalf of his delegation:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its decision of the twenty-ninth session on the finances of the International School: 25/

"1. Affirms its opposition to any form of subsidy to the International School;

"2. Decides that the provision from the regular budget of the United Nations for the servicing of the Board of Trustees of the School is a special case which does not constitute a subsidy to the School."

At the same time, he stated that his delegation was withdrawing its proposal because a basis had not been established for arriving at a consensus on the draft in the Committee, and reiterated his delegation's support of the relevant recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 22.16 of its first report on the proposed budget estimates for the 1978-1979 biennium.

208. In his proposed programme budget estimates for the biennium 1978-1979, the Secretary-General requested appropriations in a total amount of \$157,733,700 under section 22. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended total reductions in the amount of \$3,087,200 for a total of \$154,646,500. At the 67th meeting, the following action was taken by the Fifth Committee on specific proposals made in the course of first reading with respect to the reinstatement of certain amounts requested by the Secretary-General but not recommended by the Advisory Committee:

25/ Ibid., Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 85, document A/9983, para. 11.

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(a) By 64 votes to 10, with 15 abstentions, the Committee, acting on a proposal of the Philippines, approved the reinstatement of an amount of \$33,900 in respect of a post at the P-3 level for work on placement and career development under section 22 C (Office of Personnel Services, Headquarters);

(b) By 72 votes to 10, with 1 abstention, the Committee, acting on a proposal by New Zealand, approved the reinstatement of an amount of \$256,000 with respect to 48-work months of General Service temporary assistance for the International School of the United Nations under section 22 C (Office of Personnel Services, Headquarters);

(c) By 41 votes to 28, with 23 abstentions, the Committee, acting on a proposal by the Philippines, approved the reinstatement of \$24,700 for long-distance telephone calls and an amount of \$80,800 with respect to four General Service posts in the Archives and Records Service under section 22 D (Office of General Services, Headquarters);

(d) By 53 votes to 27, with 13 abstentions, the Committee, acting on a proposal by Tunisia, approved the reinstatement of an amount of \$28,500 for the professional studies programme under section 22 J (Staff training activities);

(e) By 19 votes to 32, with 42 abstentions, the Committee rejected a proposal by Austria to reinstate an amount of \$48,500 in respect of overtime for the Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Service under section 22 F.

209. The Committee then acted as follows on proposals made by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

(a) It rejected by 15 votes to 32, with 42 abstentions, the proposal that a decision on the additional appropriation in the amount of \$854,800 recommended by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/37) and the Advisory Committee (A/32/8/Add.25) for section 22 F (Electronic data processing and information systems) be postponed to the thirty-third session;

(b) It rejected by 20 votes to 43, with 28 abstentions, the proposal that the amount of \$47,400 for a post at the P-4 level under section 22 J.2 (Staff training activities, Geneva) recommended by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/67) and the Advisory Committee (A/32/8/Add.26) be deleted.

210. At its 67th meeting, on 17 December 1977, the Committee, taking into account the above-mentioned decisions taken with respect to section 22, decided, by 77 votes to 11, with 3 abstentions, to approve in first reading for section 22 an amount of \$154,834,400 representing an increase of \$187,900 over the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Revised estimates under section 22 B.1, Office of Financial Services

211. At its 69th meeting, the Committee considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/32/66) on revised estimates for the Office of Financial Services under section 22 B.1.

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212. In his report, the Secretary-General proposed certain additional appropriations for the Office of Financial Services pursuant to certain key proposals made by the Board of Auditors as a result of a general evaluation of the financial management and control systems of the Organization.

213. The comments made in the course of the short discussion on this item are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.69).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

214. At its 69th meeting, on 19 December, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to defer its examination of this question to the thirty-third session on the understanding that it will be considered on a priority basis (see para. 238 (d) below).

215. In the course of its examination of the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium, the Committee took a number of broader decisions with respect to the budget, which are reflected in the paragraphs that follow.

Effects of inflation and monetary instability

216. At the 61st meeting, on 12 December, the representative of Cuba introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.27):

"The General Assembly,

"Deeply concerned at the persistence of inflation and monetary instability in the developed countries in which the United Nations incurs expenditure,

"Considering the responsibility borne by the developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters for the generation of their own internal inflation and for readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of their currencies,

"Considering further the economic advantages which those developed countries derive from the presence of the headquarters of United Nations bodies in their territory,

"Recognizing that countries which are not responsible for inflation in, and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of, developed countries in which United Nations bodies have headquarters should not defray the cost of the losses occasioned thereby,

"Taking into account the fact that the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of internal inflation in, and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of the currencies of, developing countries in which it has headquarters are relatively small,

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"Taking into account also that the provisions of this resolution shall not apply to those developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters and which make voluntary contributions for this purpose, meeting the requirements mentioned in operative paragraph 3 of this resolution,

"Mindful of the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Believing that, in order to cover the substantial losses caused by inflation and monetary instability, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

"1. Decides that the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of inflation and monetary instability in the developed countries in which it has headquarters shall be covered in the following way:

"(a) Eighty per cent of such losses shall be borne by the developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters, in proportion to the expenditures incurred in those countries;

"(b) The remaining 20 per cent shall be borne by the other countries, pro-rated in shares determined by the scale of assessments approved by the General Assembly for the corresponding period;

"2. Decides also that the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of internal inflation in, and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of the currencies of, the developing countries in which it has headquarters shall be absorbed by the regular budget of the United Nations;

"3. Decides further that the provisions of this resolution shall not apply to developed countries in which the United Nations has headquarters and which make voluntary contributions in order to offset the losses sustained by the United Nations as a result of inflation and monetary instability, provided that those contributions are in an amount at least equivalent to the amount which would be payable by them as a result of their own internal inflation and readjustments and fluctuations in the exchange rates of their currencies."

217. After some procedural discussion, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that consideration of the draft resolution be deferred to the thirty-third session.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

218. At its 61st meeting, on 12 December, the Fifth Committee, by 56 votes to 20, with 15 abstentions, decided to defer its consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly (see para. 238 (e)).

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219. At the 63rd meeting, on 14 December, the representative of Australia introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.32/Rev.1), on behalf of Australia and Singapore:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the decision of the Fifth Committee adopted at its 1770th meeting requesting the Secretary-General to base his assumptions on the actual rate of inflation on the latest available forecast and for currency alignments on the actual rate prevailing at the time the documents are prepared,

"Noting that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 includes an appropriation for inflation, and exchange rate variation based on assumptions whose accuracy will only be tested as the biennium progresses,

"Desiring to ensure that appropriate control is exercised over the expenditure of appropriations allocated to programmes especially that portion provided for inflation, and exchange rate variation,

"1. Decides that in issuing allotments to programme managers the Secretary-General should during the biennium 1978-1979 and subsequent biennia satisfy himself that movements in inflation and currency exchange rates are in accordance with budget projections, and if the actual rates are favourable by comparison reduce the allocations accordingly;

"2. Further decides that if additional allocations are requested by programme managers because of higher rates of inflation or unfavourable movements in currency rates, the Secretary-General should ascertain whether savings are possible from other sources and reduce the allocations accordingly;

"3. Requests that if proposals for additional appropriations are made to the General Assembly to cover higher rates of inflation or less favourable exchange rates, than those budgeted for at various duty stations, detailed information should be provided on:

"(a) Savings resulting from lower inflation rates or favourable currency variations at other duty stations;

"(b) Attempts to cover these additional costs by means of savings from other sources, for example, economies achieved in executing programmes, or the completion of programmes earlier than anticipated."

At the same time, he announced that the word "especially", in the second preambular paragraph, should read "including", and that in operative paragraph 2 the word "currency" should read "exchange".

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220. After a short procedural discussion, the representative of Cuba proposed that consideration of the draft resolution be deferred to the thirty-third session.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

221. At its 63rd meeting, on 14 December, the Fifth Committee, by 37 votes to 28, with 18 abstentions, decided to defer its consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.32/Rev.1 to the thirty-third session (see para. 238 (f)).

Expenditure with respect to experts and consultants in the United Nations

222. At its 63rd meeting, on 14 December, the representative of New Zealand introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.29) on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore and Venezuela. Italy subsequently joined the list of sponsors. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of New Zealand referred to the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"Noting with concern that the aggregate appropriation for experts and consultants proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1978-1979 totals \$11,423,000 compared with approved appropriations for 1974-1975 of \$6,784,000, and that whereas the initial estimate requested by the Secretary-General for 1976-1977 was \$6,665,000, actual expenditure of \$6,902,876 for the first 18 months already substantially exceeded that figure,".

He announced that the sponsors had decided to delete the last part of the paragraph after the figure "6,784,000".

223. At the 63rd meeting, on 14 December 1977, after some discussion, the Committee decided to adopt the draft resolution, as amended by the sponsors, by consensus.

224. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of this question are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.63).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

225. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.29 as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution VII).

Form of presentation of the United Nations budget

226. At the 65th meeting on 15 December, the representative of Cuba introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.33), the operative paragraph of which read:

/...

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to endeavour, in preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, to improve its form, content and structure, taking into account the opinion expressed and suggestions made in the Fifth Committee during the general debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 and in particular, to submit a summary of the budget containing, inter alia, the following information:

"(a) The information contained in the foreword and annexes of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979;

"(b) Additional relevant information including that proposed in chapter I of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979;

"(c) Expenditure by programmes and subprogrammes in absolute figures;

"(d) Expenditure by programmes and organizational units;

"(e) Expenditure by programmes and object of expenditure."

227. After some discussion, in the course of which the representative of the Secretary-General replied to queries, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany proposed that the words "as far as practicable" be added after the words "following information" at the end of operative paragraph 1. The amendment was accepted by Cuba.

228. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.33 as amended, by 36 votes to 7, with 35 abstentions.

229. Comments made by delegations during the discussion of the draft resolution, as well as explanations of vote, are reflected in the summary record of the Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.65).

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

230. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.33, as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution VIII).

Presentation of the United Nations budget

231. At its 65th meeting, on 15 December, the representative of France introduced the following draft resolution (A/C.5/32/L.37/Rev.1), on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Mauritania, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Venezuela and Zaire:

/...

"The General Assembly,

"Having noted that during the consideration of agenda item 100 (Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979), and especially during the general debate on that item, important problems of principle and method have been raised,

"Having observed that there is a large measure of agreement concerning the interest in some of these problems and the need to study them further with a view to improving budgetary procedures, in the light of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee,

"Recalling in that connexion the statement made by the Chairman at the 16th meeting of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/32/SR.16, paras. 95-101), and the relevant passages of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8),

"1. Considers that the most important of the aforementioned problems relate to:

"(a) The need to apply effectively paragraphs 9 and 11 (b) of General Assembly resolution 31/93, concerning activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;

"(b) The need to assess more accurately the resources required for programme implementation and especially the method followed in determining the amount corresponding to 'maintenance of programmes' and the composition of that amount;

"(c) The best way of dealing with inflationary trends and currency instability in a biennial programme budget;

"(d) Refinement of the methods of calculating absolute and real growth of the budget;

"(e) The need for a study in depth of problems relating to the implementation of the budget;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to make a study of the aforementioned matters and to report on the results of his study to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, which will make its observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's conclusions.

"The Secretary-General's report shall contain proposals relating to:

"(a) The aforementioned provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/93;

"(b) The method to be followed in making a satisfactory determination of the amount corresponding to 'maintenance of programmes' and the composition

/...

of that amount, for example, by proposing the adoption of a zero base for the calculation of some elements thereof, and in making a more accurate assessment of staff costs;

"(c) A study of the advantages and disadvantages of 'semi-full budgeting' and the methods used or proposed to apply this system;

"3. Decides to consider the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its thirty-third session as a preliminary to the preparation of the programme budget for 1980-1981."

At the same time, he announced that Italy had joined the list of sponsors.

232. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics orally proposed the following amendments:

(a) Operative paragraph 1 (a) should be amended to read:

"(a) The need to apply effectively the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 35/34 (XXX) and 31/93;"

(b) Operative paragraph 2 (a) should be amended to read:

"(a) The aforementioned provisions of General Assembly resolutions 35/34 (XXX) and 31/93;"

233. The representative of Poland orally proposed that the words "programmes, projects and" be inserted after the word "concerning" in operative paragraph 1 (a).

234. The representative of Austria orally proposed that the words "as well as the relevant comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination made in its report on the work of its seventeenth session" be inserted in the third preambular paragraph after "(A/C.5/32/SR.16, paras. 95-101)". He also proposed the insertion of the words "and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination" in operative paragraph 2 after the words "Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

235. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted all of the oral amendments proposed, with the exception of the second amendment proposed by Austria.

236. At the 65th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee then decided to approve draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.37/Rev.1, as amended, by consensus.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

237. The Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.37/Rev.1, as amended (see para. 239 below, draft resolution IX).

/...

III. DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

238. The Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly its consideration of:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/34 and Corr.1) on the revision of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations;

(b) The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/2) on the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations;

(c) The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/29 and Corr.1) and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8/Add.9) on the question of services provided by the United Nations to activities funded from extrabudgetary resources;

(d) The report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/66) on the revised estimates for the Office of Financial Services;

(e) The draft resolution proposed by Cuba (A/C.5/32/L.27) on the subject of the effects of inflation and monetary instability;

(f) The draft resolution proposed by Australia and Singapore (A/C.5/32/L.32/Rev.1) on the subject of appropriations for movements in inflation and for exchange rate variations.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

239. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Use of experts and consultants in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision of 18 December 1974, 26/ adopted at its twenty-ninth session, in which it outlined principles and guidelines for the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations, and its decision of 17 September 1975, 27/ adopted at its thirtieth session, in which it reaffirmed the aforesaid principles and guidelines which should be implemented promptly, fully and effectively,

26/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631), pp. 136 and 137, item 73.

27/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/10034), p. 145, item 96, para. (t).

Recalling further its resolution 31/205 of 22 December 1976, in which it reaffirmed the decisions taken at its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a report on the implementation of the aforementioned decisions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 28/

Expressing the view that the aforementioned report does not adequately respond to the requirements of the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and still reflects deficiencies in the implementation of the principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants,

Taking note of the assurances of the Secretary-General that future reports will fully and adequately reflect the existing practice in the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a full and comprehensive report, showing his efforts to eliminate existing deficiencies in implementing principles and guidelines on the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations;

2. Requests further that such a report should contain detailed comparative data, as well as a statement evaluating the status of implementation of the principles and guidelines set by the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing the need for logical and coherent organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat in the interest of a more rational and functional hierarchical structure,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General 29/ and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 30/ on the question of organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat;

2. Endorses the general direction of reform in nomenclature proposed by the Secretary-General in his report and encourages him to proceed expeditiously with the application of the measures envisaged, taking into account the observations made by the Advisory Committee and the views expressed in the Fifth Committee;

28/ A/C.5/32/7.

29/ A/C.5/32/17.

30/ A/32/8/Add.5.

3. Welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the application of the measures proposed in his report;

4. Decides to consider this question at its thirty-third session on the basis of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General;

5. Urges intergovernmental bodies to avoid recommendations giving particular designations to organizational units or their heads which may not be in conformity with the nomenclature proposed by the Secretary-General.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Arabic language services in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, in paragraph 18 of which it decided to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, particularly all sessions of the Conference, the Trade and Development Board and its main committees,

Noting that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Trade and Development Board and some of its main committees have been already amended accordingly,

Recalling that, in section VIII of its resolution 31/208 of 22 December 1976, it approved the organizational arrangements proposed by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session 31/ with a view to providing an initial target level of Arabic language services to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development while simultaneously alleviating some of the chronic problems facing the provision of such services to the Assembly and its Main Committees,

Noting, however, that, as far as Arabic translation services are concerned, the progress report of the Secretary-General 32/ makes it clear that these organizational arrangements have not sufficiently achieved their purported objectives both with regard to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, while admitting the uncertain nature of their future prospects,

Recognizing the great importance which the Arab States Members of the United Nations attach to the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as well as their expressed need for having its documentation issued in Arabic in time to enable their delegations to participate constructively in its deliberations and activities,

31/ A/C.5/31/60 and Corr.1.

32/ A/C.5/32/9.

Convinced that an efficient, timely and less costly provision of Arabic translation services to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development can be achieved only by the installation of an adequately staffed service at its headquarters,

Bearing in mind the magnitude and urgency of the efforts needed to enable such a service to meet adequately the Arabic translation requirements of the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in 1979,

1. Takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General concerning Arabic language services in the United Nations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, while continuing the speedy implementation of the organizational arrangements contained in paragraphs 15 to 21 of his report, 1/ to replace the present arrangement set out in paragraph 25 of this report by establishing, as from 1 January 1978, on a permanent basis, an Arabic Translation Section in the United Nations Office at Geneva, primarily to serve the bodies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and, as an initial step, to provide the staff requirements for this Section, for the biennium 1978-1979, by transferring to this Section the posts already established under section VIII of General Assembly resolution 31/208, with the addition of a post of Chief of Section;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in close consultation and co-operation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, proposals aimed at the full implementation of resolution 86 (IV) of 28 May 1976 of the Conference, endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 18 of its resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, and to submit these proposals to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue his search for and apply adequate methods, including advance translation of appropriate documentation and provision of temporary assistance when necessary, to ensure the timely provision of Arabic translation services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and to report on the results to the Assembly as appropriate.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council, in the annex to its resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, set out the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, paragraph 2 (a) (ii) of which states that the Committee shall recommend an order to priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan,

/...

Recalling also paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976 on the medium-term plan,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 2098 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 dealing with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its seventeenth session, 33/

Noting also the report of the Secretary-General on the implications of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination 34/ and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 35/

I

1. Confirms that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, by virtue of its review of both the medium-term plan and the programme aspects of the programme budget, is the main subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and co-ordination, with the perspective necessary to make recommendations on the relative priorities of United Nations programmes;

2. Urges subsidiary bodies to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes, as outlined in the medium-term plan;

3. Requests such bodies to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to give all assistance to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its work, inter alia in connexion with the recommendation in paragraph 2 of the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session, in particular to enable the Committee to assess the implications of its recommendations;

II

1. Notes the methodology described by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in paragraph 3 of the report on its seventeenth session 8/ for improving its determination of relative growth rates;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to implement, in the light of the relevant recommendations and comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and in the most appropriate manner, the relative growth rates accepted by the General Assembly as the framework of programme priorities;

33/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/32/38).

34/ A/C.5/32/26 and Corr.1.

35/ A/32/8/Add.14.

/...

3. Considers that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, while proposing priorities in its programme review, should continue to limit its recommendations to ranges of growth;

4. Invites the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, in its review of the medium-term plan at its eighteenth session, to take into account the above-mentioned consideration;

III

1. Authorizes the Secretary-General, in consultation with the executive secretaries of the regional commissions concerned, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 10/ through the Economic and Social Council, programme proposals for increased activity in the transport programmes of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and revised estimates to that end;

2. Decides, in the light of additional information provided to the General Assembly and of subsequent developments, to defer consideration of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination dealing with programme transfers and reductions until the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Technological innovations in the publications and documentation of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Concerned about significant costs accruing to all Member States, including direct costs to themselves as well as charges to the United Nations which result from current methods of producing and distributing publications and documentation of the United Nations,

1. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts and initiatives to improve documentation and publications services;

2. Concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report 36/ to pursue measures proposed by the Secretary-General with regard to technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation of the United Nations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to explore and recommend additional measures to improve and expedite the production and distribution of publications and documentation using a cautious, step-by-step approach, and in particular requests him to study:

(a) The means to ensure publication of the full official record of sessions of the General Assembly;

(b) Increased revenue from the sale of the publications and documentation programme in recognition of the improved service;

(c) Further limitations on free distribution of publications and documents;

(d) Installation of modern facilities to improve in-session availability of important documents;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved in the implementation of approved measures, on the results of further studies and on recommendations for additional measures to improve documentation and publications services.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3004 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to locate the environment secretariat in a developing country and further decided to locate it in Nairobi,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations accommodation at Nairobi 37/ and of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 38/

2. Accepts with appreciation the generous grant by the Government of Kenya of the site at Gigiri, Nairobi, upon which to construct the project, subject to a suitable agreement between the Secretary-General and the Government;

3. Concurs in the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee; 39/

4. Approves in principle the construction of permanent headquarters facilities for the United Nations Environment Programme and accommodation for the other United Nations offices in Nairobi;

37/ A/C.5/32/19 and Add.1.

38/ A/32/8/Add.10.

39/ Ibid., paras. 10-29.

5. Authorizes the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, to proceed in accordance with the recommendations contained in his report; 40/

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly annually on the progress made on the construction of the project.

40/ A/C.5/32/19, para. 32.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Expenditure with respect to experts and consultants
in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling that its decision of 18 December 1974, 41/ adopted at its twenty-ninth session, in which it outlined principles and guidelines for the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations, provided inter alia that:

(a) The Secretary-General should ensure that expenditure for consultant services is maintained within the approved figure for 1974-1975 and that no supplementary estimates are presented,

(b) The estimates under this heading in future biennial programme budgets should be prepared with determined restraint, with a view to achieving reductions in the funds requested for this field of activities,

Noting with concern that the aggregate appropriation for experts and consultants proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1978-1979 totals \$11,423,000, compared with approved appropriations for 1974-1975 of \$6,784,000,

Noting that the commendable reduction in proposed expenditure on consultant services for 1978-1979 envisaged in the estimates for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in section 5.A of the 1978-1979 programme budget, arising from greater utilization of staff resources available within the Secretariat and highly selective recourse to external assistance, 42/ has not been reflected in the estimates for certain other budget sectors,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to re-examine proposed expenditure on experts and consultants in 1978-1979 following approval of the programme budget with a view to achieving savings in the aggregate allocation for such activities and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that no supplementary estimates are presented for expenditure on experts and consultants during the biennium 1978-1979.

41/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631), pp. 136 and 137, item 73.

42/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6), para. 5A.1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Form of presentation of the United Nations budget

The General Assembly,

Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, 43/

Taking into account that, by resolution 3043 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972, it approved on an experimental basis the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget directed towards the establishment of programme budgeting,

Recalling the statement in the second preambular paragraph of that resolution that the new form of presentation constitutes a useful basis for proceeding towards the introduction of a system of programme budgeting,

Recalling also the decision in that resolution to keep under continuous review the progress achieved in the implementation by the Secretary-General of the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget,

Recognizing that an over-all view of the programme budget is essential for a global analysis thereof,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to endeavour, in preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, to improve its form, content and structure, taking into account the opinions expressed and suggestions made in the Fifth Committee during the general debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, and, in particular to submit a summary of the budget containing, inter alia, the following information as far as practicable:

(a) The information contained in the foreword and annexes of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979;

(b) Additional relevant information including that proposed in chapter I of the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979; 44/

(c) Expenditure by programmes and subprogrammes in absolute figures;

(d) Expenditure by programmes and organizational units;

(e) Expenditure by programmes and object of expenditure.

43/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6).

44/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

Presentation of the United Nations budget

The General Assembly,

Having noted that during the consideration of the item entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979", and especially during the general debate on that item, important problems of principle and method have been raised,

Having observed that there is a large measure of agreement concerning the interest in some of these problems and the need to study them further with a view to improving budgetary procedures, in the light of the views expressed in the Fifth Committee,

Recalling in that connexion the statement made by the Chairman at the 16th meeting of the Fifth Committee 45/ as well as the relevant comments of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its report on the work of its seventeenth session 46/ and the relevant passages of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 47/

1. Considers that the most important of the aforementioned problems relate to:

(a) The need to apply effectively the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976 concerning programme, projects and activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective;

(b) The need to assess more accurately the resources required for programme implementation, and especially the method followed in determining the amount corresponding to "maintenance of programmes" and the composition of that amount;

(c) The best way of dealing with inflationary trends and currency instability in a biennial programme budget;

(d) Refinement of the methods of calculating absolute and real growth of the budget;

(e) The need for a study in depth of problems relating to the implementation of the budget;

45/ A/C.5/32/SR.16, paras. 95-101.

46/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/32/38).

47/ Ibid., Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8).

2. Requests the Secretary-General to make a study of the aforementioned matters and to report on the results of his study to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, which will make its observations and recommendations on the Secretary-General's conclusions; the report of the Secretary-General shall contain proposals relating to:

(a) The aforementioned provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) and 31/93;

(b) The method to be followed in making a satisfactory determination of the amount corresponding to "maintenance of programmes" and the composition of that amount, for example by proposing the adoption of a zero base for the calculation of some elements thereof, and in making a more accurate assessment of staff costs;

(c) A study of the advantages and disadvantages of "semi-full budgeting" and the methods used or proposed to apply this system;

3. Decides to consider the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its thirty-third session as a preliminary to the preparation of the programme budget for 1980-1981.

DRAFT RESOLUTION X

Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979

The General Assembly,

I

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the expansion of meeting rooms and improvement of conference servicing and delegate facilities at United Nations Headquarters 48/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 49/

2. Concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report; 50/

48/ A/C.5/32/4 and Corr.1.

49/ A/32/8/Add.1.

50/ Ibid.

II

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation on budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system; 51/
2. Considers the report of the Secretary-General to be an interim report;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved with respect to the question of the impact of inflation on budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during its consideration of this question at the thirty-second session;

III

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implications of extending Pension Fund coverage to certain former staff members for service with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East during the period 1950 to 1960 inclusive; 52/
2. Takes note also of the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 53/

IV

1. Decides that the lump-sum payment per annum of honoraria for members of the Human Rights Committee shall be in the amount of \$2,500 for the Chairman and \$1,000 for other members;
2. Authorizes that expenditures for these honoraria be increased beginning on 1 January 1977;
3. Notes that additional expenditures in the amount of \$19,500 under section 18 of the programme budget for the 1976-1977 biennium will be absorbed within available appropriations for 1976-1977;
4. Authorizes an additional appropriation under section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the 1978-1979 biennium in the amount of \$39,000;

V

1. Takes note of the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 54/ on the question of the establishment of an information services unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

51/ A/C.5/32/5.

52/ A/C.5/31/71 and A/C.5/32/14.

53/ A/32/8/Add.2.

54/ A/32/256 and Add.1.

2. Decides that the acceptance by the Secretary-General of the offer of voluntary funds in 1978-1979, would not imply any commitments on the part of the Organization subsequently to transfer of the costs of the operation to the regular budget;

3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to proceed in accordance with the proposal contained in paragraph 5 of his report; 55/

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the progress achieved with respect to the work carried out in 1978, so that the Assembly can pronounce itself on whether computerization should be undertaken;

VI

1. Takes notes of the report of the Secretary-General on the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 56/

2. Decides to establish the honorarium of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the level of \$50,000 annually effective 1 January 1978;

VII

Takes note of the note of the Secretary-General 57/ on the status of classification projects;

VIII

Approves the inclusion of Arabic as an official language of the Third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

IX

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 58/ on the financial implications resulting from the decisions of the Trade and Development Board at its ninth special session and the first part of its seventeenth session;

55/ A/C.5/32/47.

56/ A/C.5/32/96.

57/ A/C.5/32/57.

58/ A/C.5/32/105.

X

1. Takes note of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 22.55 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, 59/ as well as the views expressed in the Fifth Committee on the question of the proposed arrangements for a combined Internal Audit and Management Improvement Service, which the Secretary-General is invited to take into account; in the meantime, the present organizational arrangements will be maintained;

2. Decides to return to and consider the questions raised by the Advisory Committee and by delegations at its thirty-third session in the context of the review of the question of administrative and management control of the United Nations, which will be on the agenda pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/94 C of 14 December 1976, it being understood that all options will be open to the Fifth Committee when it considers this matter at that time;

XI

1. Decides to consider on a priority basis at its thirty-third session the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to compensation for the two full-time Commissioners of the International Civil Service Commission 60/ and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 61/ without prejudice to the possibility of retroactive action on these proposals;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, with such advice as he deems desirable, to prepare, in the context of the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria, a study of the conditions of service and compensation appropriate for those officers serving the General Assembly, other than Secretariat officials, whose terms and conditions of selection, duties and responsibilities preclude active engagement by governmental, intergovernmental or other specified entities.

59/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6 and Corr.1 and 2).

60/ A/C.5/32/28.

61/ A/32/8/Add.11.