



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KOBINA SEKYI (Ghana)

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

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

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

Presentation of the United Nations budget (continued) (A/33/7/Add.18; A/C.5/33/12, A/C.5/33/13, A/C.5/33/L.37)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the representatives of Cuba and Pakistan had reached agreement on a revised version of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.37. The third preambular paragraph should be deleted, and in the fourth preambular paragraph the words "set out in the previous paragraph" should be replaced by the words "over-all policy making, substantive activities and non-substantive activities". The single operative paragraph should be replaced by the two paragraphs read out by the Secretary of the Committee at the preceding meeting.
2. Mr. SERRANO AVILA (Cuba) said that his delegation had agreed to the amendments proposed by the representative of Pakistan on the understanding that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus. In the view of his delegation, it was important to retain in the preamble a reference to the fact that the draft medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 (A/33/6) had grouped financial data under the headings of over-all policy making, substantive activities and non-substantive activities, since that precedent had been one of the reasons which had prompted his delegation to submit the draft resolution.
3. Draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.37, as revised, was adopted by consensus.
4. Mrs. DERRE (France) said that her delegation had not opposed the consensus but considered that the draft resolution had been rendered meaningless by the amendments incorporated into it.
5. Mr. CUNNINGHAM (United States of America) said that his delegation had intended to request a vote on the draft resolution but had failed to catch the Chairman's eye. If the draft resolution had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against it, since the exercise called for was not useful and would waste the time of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.
6. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that his delegation would also have voted against the draft resolution, since what it requested was an unessential activity. It was time for the Fifth Committee to take a hard look at the kind of demands it was making on the Secretariat, especially in view of the fact that 1979 would be a budget year.
7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the Secretary-General's reports in documents A/C.5/33/12 and A/C.5/33/13 and the related report of the Advisory Committee in document A/33/7/Add.18, approve the Secretary-General's proposal in part VI of document A/C.5/33/12 regarding the methodology for the preparation of the programme budget proposals for 1980-1981, subject to the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 6 to 18 of document

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(The Chairman)

A/33/7/Add.18, and concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning the identification of activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal utility or ineffective.

8. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 102: UNITED NATIONS ACCOMMODATION (continued)

(a) ACCOMMODATION AT THE DONAUPARK CENTRE IN VIENNA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/33/7/Add.20; A/C.5/33/39 and Corr.1, A/C.5/33/L.42)

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the name of Austria had been inadvertently omitted from the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42.

10. Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42, announced that the Netherlands, Romania and the Upper Volta had also become sponsors.

11. The preamble of the draft resolution outlined the history of the General Assembly's consideration of the question of accommodation at the Donaupark Centre and reaffirmed the principle, enunciated in Assembly resolution 31/194, that optimum use should be made of the facilities at the Donaupark Centre.

12. With regard to the operative part of the draft resolution, he said that, in recommending approval of the additional funds requested by the Secretary-General, the sponsors had taken note of the interpretative statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and they recognized that, as far as evaluating the costs were concerned, there was no basis for comparison. Paragraph 4 reflected the views expressed by several delegations that units transferred to Vienna must be enabled to function effectively and that adequate support services were therefore essential. Since the Organization had no previous experience in the matter, paragraph 4 had intentionally been drafted in general terms so that the situation could be reviewed at a future date in the light of the experience gained.

13. Mr. MARCUARD (Observer for Switzerland) said that the item under discussion was of particular interest to Switzerland, as the host country to the United Nations Office at Geneva. At the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the General Assembly, he had reaffirmed Switzerland's willingness to continue its traditional policy of hospitality towards the United Nations and its specialized agencies and its desire to preserve the organic nature of the co-operation among

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(Mr. Marcuard, Observer, Switzerland)

the various organizations of the United Nations system established in Geneva. The Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/33/39 were in keeping with that desire, and he was pleased to know that they were also satisfactory in Austria.

14. The discussions in the Committee and the detailed reports of the Secretary-General had served to highlight the importance of forward planning with respect to accommodation requirements. As far as Geneva was concerned, his Government greatly appreciated its regular contacts with the Secretariat, which had enabled the Swiss authorities to form a much clearer over-all picture of the problems of planning and to obtain a better knowledge of the Organization's needs.

15. Among the matters of concern to the United Nations was the availability in Geneva of a sufficient reserve of office space to accommodate the expansion of the agencies established there. One important step taken by his Government to assist the Secretariat in attaining that objective had been the renovation of the former ILO building, whose present occupants included the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. A number of new buildings were under construction, including one for the relocation of the International Trade Centre, and others were planned to provide additional office space for the use of the United Nations.

16. Along with those actions designed to ensure an adequate margin of security, the Swiss authorities were endeavouring to assist in solving the problems associated with the holding of conferences in Geneva. His Government, acting in full agreement with the authorities of the Canton of Geneva, had decided, subject to parliamentary approval, to place at the disposal of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, free of charge, the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG). As that decision had been taken only recently, he had been unable to make the announcement at the most appropriate time when the Committee had been considering the pattern of conferences. CICG was managed by the Fondation immobilière pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI); it was a fully-equipped modern conference building which could accommodate approximately 2,000 delegates and was very near the Palais des Nations and most of the specialized agencies. It was hoped that parliamentary approval would soon be forthcoming so that the Committee on Conferences could take the availability of the Centre into account when deciding on the pattern of conferences for the period 1980-1981.

17. Mr. HARVILLE (Barbados) said he was grateful for the clarification provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management at the 63rd meeting with respect to the discrepancy in the figures given in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/33/39) regarding posts to be transferred to Vienna. Nevertheless, his delegation still had some misgivings about posts to remain in New York. It welcomed the explanation provided by the Advisory Committee regarding its recommendation of a technical cut in the Secretary-General's estimates, and had little difficulty in agreeing to the Advisory Committee's recommendations in

(Mr. Marville, Barbados)

general. His delegation's main concern was that the smooth and prompt transfer of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) in its entirety should be ensured.

18. His delegation saw a connexion between the transfer of CSDHA and the location of Habitat, an ultimate link to the question of the restructuring of the United Nations system and the crucial issue of the functions of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation within the restructured system. The Secretary-General seemed to have moved from the thesis, expressed in document A/C.5/31/34, that in considering the transfer of units every effort should be made to maintain cohesive groupings of similar functions in the same location to the concept of "functional groupings". CSDHA and the Social Affairs Division had been identified as one such functional grouping. One year later, human settlements had been identified as another functional grouping. It was an open secret that some Professionals in those units, quite in contravention of the spirit of the paragraph on mobility of Professional staff within the system contained in the resolution on personnel questions recently adopted by the Fifth Committee, were reluctant to accept the move from New York or Geneva and had changed or attempted to change their posts. Posts had "disappeared" from Habitat, while a small number of posts in CSDHA were to remain in New York. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the honest explanations provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management regarding problems encountered in transferring staff to Vienna.

19. Document A/33/410, concerning restructuring, contained information that was relevant to the question of the transfer of CSDHA to Vienna. He drew attention to the chart on page 15 of that document, which delineated quite clearly the functions of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs. The chart showed that CSDHA and programme planning and co-ordination were essential parts of the Under-Secretary-General's portfolio. There was no indication of the relationship of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Paragraph 21 of the document indicated that the Secretary-General had consulted the heads of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters, but no mention was made of any consultations with the Director-General for International Economic Co-operation. His delegation wished to know whether the Director-General had in fact been consulted and, if so, whether his views had simply been rejected or had been received too late to be taken into account.

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(Mr. Marville, Barbados)

20. Reference was made in document A/33/410 to an integrated approach, in contradistinction to the Secretary-General's concept of functional groupings. His delegation wondered whether the Secretary-General was carrying out only a shadow transfer of CSDHA to Vienna, in contradiction of the decision taken by the General Assembly. There was a distinct possibility that the Professional posts which were to remain in New York would be maintained after 1980 and become the functional embryo for dealing with social development and humanitarian affairs. His delegation was of the view that any Professional posts from the Centre remaining in New York should be designated as temporary posts until the transfer to Vienna was completed. It was necessary to postulate a time frame for the operation of the actual posts in question and to ask the representative of the Secretary-General to confirm or deny the validity of the postulated time frame. In the case of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, would it be true to say that the posts would no longer be needed after 1979, when it was reasonable to expect that work on the documentation for the Conference would be completed? It would also seem that the office responsible for programme planning and co-ordination could have totally or largely performed the functions of the posts remaining behind in New York and that the documentation for the Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders could be prepared by other Secretariat units dealing with crime prevention and criminal justice.

21. Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that his delegation was pleased at the generous offer of the Austrian Government regarding the Donaupark Centre, which was in the noble tradition of Austrian diplomacy relating to rapprochement between peoples. He noted that it was following IAEA's decision to terminate its negotiations with the Austrian Government that the Secretary-General had revised his plan for Tower A-2. In the circumstances, his delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's decision concerning transfers from New York and Geneva to Vienna, which had in fact been approved two years earlier. Authorization of the revised plan would require fresh decisions by the General Assembly regarding the financial implications. The reductions made by ACABQ in the Secretary-General's revised estimates were also acceptable to his delegation, which agreed with the observations in paragraphs 9, 15 and 20 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/33/7/Add.20) concerning the temporary retention in New York of certain CSDHA staff members, the economical and rational use of premises and equipment and the recruitment of temporary staff to meet additional needs.

22. Although his delegation endorsed the recommendations of ACABQ, it had substantive reservations which were the subject of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42, paragraph 2. Senegal had become a sponsor of the draft resolution on the understanding that it would serve to accelerate the process of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the Secretariat.

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23. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said that the General Assembly, in adopting its resolution 31/194, had approved a phased plan of action for occupation of the premises to be made available at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna. It now appeared that, although the first phase had scarcely been launched, the plan was practically on the point of reaching its objectives. According to the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/39), that was due to circumstances, including the return of Tower A-2 to IAEA, the underlying reasons for which were not explained, and the transfer to Vienna of 250 UNRWA staff members, an arrangement which his delegation had believed and hoped would be entirely temporary because it was undesirable, from many points of view, for those staff members to be maintained outside the Near East region for a long period. The Secretary-General should provide further clarification concerning the latter point.

24. The Secretary-General accordingly stated that, pending the possible relocation of the UNRWA components, he was not proposing the transfer from New York and Geneva to Vienna of any administrative units other than those whose transfer had already been approved in 1976. That would of course facilitate the consideration of the question by the Fifth Committee, which must ensure that the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in 1976 for the phase I of the plan of action were faithfully implemented. In that connexion, his delegation, like the delegation of Barbados, was somewhat concerned about the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. In view of the Centre's structural fragility, which was due to the fact that it covered a variety of activities, it should not be fragmented. Accordingly, he questioned the wisdom of dividing up the staff of the Advancement of Women Branch for more than a year. As he understood it, two thirds of the Professional staff of the Branch would remain in New York while the other third would be transferred to Vienna. According to the Secretary-General's report, that was in order to complete the preparation of documentation required for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. However, that documentation should surely be issued well before the end of 1979. He perceived in that a very real danger of the creation of a new organ distinct from the present Centre. The explanations he had been given also seemed to indicate that half the Professional staff of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch would be retained in New York to make preparations for the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, while the regular programmes would be carried out at Vienna by the rest of the staff.

25. There seemed to be a danger of breaking up the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Only too often, world conferences led to the creation of new organs, resulting in overlapping, conflicts of authority and unnecessary expenditure. It was important that at its current session the General Assembly should confirm that all posts in the Centre would be transferred to Vienna. If it proved strictly necessary for certain functions to continue to be performed at New York, that was acceptable only on a strictly temporary basis. The arsenal of rules and regulations surely included provisions that would enable the Secretary-General to maintain the integrity of the Centre.

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(Mr. Pirson, Belgium)

26. With regard to the administrative infrastructure, or support services, which the Secretary-General proposed to establish at Vienna, he agreed with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that document A/C.5/33/39 was confusing. It was not possible to see precisely which measures and expenditures were really necessary. Details should have been given of the current budgetary estimates for IAEA, UNIDO and the units to be transferred, with comparative tables indicating, in particular, recurring costs, maintenance costs and operating costs. Even the Advisory Committee's report (A/33/7/Add.20) did not succeed in clarifying the situation, because the confusion on the issue had prompted ACABQ to proceed with caution. Why could consideration not be given to service contracts, instead of having a staff of 72 for buildings maintenance? Everyone was aware of the extraordinary high cost in Geneva of permanent services of that kind. Why was a security staff of 75 needed? That was obviously more than the current needs for a few scattered units. The Secretary-General envisaged the recruitment of 13 additional security staff, a Professional officer for a guided tours unit and additional information staff, on the ground that the units being transferred represented a variety of programmes disproportionate to their numbers. He also noted that there was a considerable increase in communication costs, which was explained but not justified in paragraph 30 of the Secretary-General's report. For some 100 additional Professional staff, communication costs of approximately \$400,000 per year were envisaged, but it was not stated what would happen to the corresponding appropriations for those same Professionals at New York and Geneva during 1979.

27. It was regrettable that documents involving considerable expenditures had been submitted so late in the session. The Secretary-General should have submitted his report to the Committee at the beginning of the session for in-depth consideration. The Advisory Committee should be requested in 1979 to make a thorough review of the question of maintenance and operating costs for the Centre, and in the meantime the Secretary-General should be asked to suspend any recruitments, even temporary ones, which were not essential. His delegation did not object to necessary support services, but that did not mean that the opening of the Donaupark Centre should be taken as an opportunity for further inflating administrative services.

28. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that General Assembly resolution 31/19^b had set forth the phased plan for transfers from New York and Geneva to Vienna. It was in that context that delegations should view the concern which had been expressed that such transfers might disrupt preparations for the World Conference on women and the United Nations Congress on the prevention of crime. The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had said at the 63rd meeting of the Committee that eight officers of the Advancement of Women Branch and four officers of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch were to remain in New York for that purpose. He wondered why the number differed, since the Conference and the Congress required the same degree of preparation. At the regional preparatory meeting for the Congress, held in Manila, many delegations had emphasized the need for efficiency in the preparation of documentation, because many national papers were being submitted. He questioned whether the staff left in New York would be sufficient for that purpose.

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29. Mr. TALIEH (Iran) said that his delegation attached great importance to optimum use of the facilities in Vienna. He reiterated his delegation's gratitude to the Austrian Government for its hospitality; the honour of serving as host to United Nations agencies and organizations should not be regarded as the monopoly of any particular State, but commendable efforts in that respect should receive due appreciation.

30. The Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/39) was confusing, although the Committee had received a reply to its queries from a senior official of the Secretariat. The ACABQ report (A/33/7/Add.20) facilitated the task of the Committee, and his delegation supported the recommendations contained in it. Paragraph 9 of that document, which had created some difficulties for at least one delegation, should be regarded as relating to technicalities and not to the question of the transfer of posts. Only temporary delays were involved, and they would not extend beyond 1980 at the latest. A distinction must be drawn between the transfer of posts and the physical transfer of individuals. It was easy for the legislative authorities to transfer posts but, as the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had said, dealing with persons was a different matter. Generally speaking, such transfers involved the actual transfer of only 90 or 95 per cent of the persons concerned. As the Under-Secretary-General had noted, the question bore some resemblance to that of delayed recruitment.

31. The statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 25 of his report, referred to in draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42, might, because of its wording, create some confusion regarding the question of the ultimate transfer of UNRWA back to its original headquarters. Circumstances in Beirut had made it necessary for UNRWA to leave Lebanon, but that was a temporary issue. Nevertheless, that point needed clarification.

32. He noted that in draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42, paragraph 2, the words "on an economical basis", which he believed had appeared in the original draft after the word "available" in the seventh line, had been omitted, and wondered whether that was due to a typographical error. His delegation would gladly support the draft resolution and the recommendations of ACABQ.

33. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that he supported the Austrian delegation's position on the item under consideration, particularly its wish to see the decisions which had been adopted implemented. He expressed great concern at the late issuance of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/39), which had made it impossible for the Committee to study it in detail. The report on the administrative and financial implications of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations system (A/C.5/32/86) had stated that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning were to be transferred physically to Vienna and Nairobi respectively. The decision to transfer the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to Vienna had been adopted at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, and the Centre must be moved as an integral entity. In the

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(Mr. Okeyo, Kenya)

discussion in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, his delegation had asked why five posts from the Centre had been moved to the new Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The question of women in development, particularly in rural sectors, was a central issue, and it had been generally recognized that programmes in that field were best implemented by women themselves. He hoped that the removal of those posts did not imply disregard of the legislative instructions regarding the transfer to Vienna. The Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/39) gave a poor presentation of the facts; he had the impression that it was perhaps meant to mislead delegations. The figures given in the report were in contradiction with those contained in related documents issued previously and made it uncertain exactly how many posts were to be moved to Vienna. His delegation would like an explanation of such contradictions and of the difference between the figures given in foot-note 14 of document A/C.5/33/39 and those mentioned in paragraph 17 of annex I.

34. His delegation's position of principle was that mandatory resolutions must be obeyed and that General Assembly resolution 31/194 must be implemented faithfully. While a small number of staff could remain behind in New York temporarily for the purposes of the preparation of conference documentation, the posts themselves must be transferred to Vienna, and the individuals who remained in New York should be transferred as soon as they had completed that documentation, which was supposed to be ready by August 1979. With regard to foot-note 13 in the Secretary-General's report, his delegation would like some clarification; in particular, it did not believe that the General Assembly had authorized the creation of a special secretariat exclusively for the Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and the CSHDA staff members left in New York to make preparations for it would therefore need to be supervised by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Centre or by its Director. He agreed with the representative of Austria that it might be possible for the documentation to be prepared at Vienna.

35. In order for General Assembly resolution 31/194 to be fully implemented, the Centre must be transferred intact. The need for four or even six Professional staff to remain temporarily in New York to prepare for the World Conference on women should not be used as a pretext to circumvent the wishes of Member States.

36. He wished to submit two amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42. He proposed that a new first preambular paragraph should be inserted, reading as follows:

"Expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Austria for having constructed the Vienna International Centre at the expense of Austria and for making available to the United Nations office and conference facilities in the Centre on a rent-free basis".

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(Mr. Okeyo, Kenya)

Secondly, he proposed the insertion of a new operative paragraph 1, reading as follows:

"Reaffirms its resolution 31/19⁴ and requests the Secretary-General to fully implement the provisions contained in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of that resolution before the end of 1979".

The existing operative paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

37. Mr. AKSOY (Turkey) asked whether costs other than those indicated in document A/C.5/33/39 for the transfer of organizational units would be incurred and whether funds appropriated for other purposes would be utilized. The use of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for the transfer of units related to international drug control and of the Narcotics Laboratory would be unacceptable, since many programmes financed from the Fund would be adversely affected.

38. Mr. CUNNINGHAM (United States of America) said that his delegation welcomed the generous decision by the people and Government of Austria to make facilities in the Vienna International Centre available for United Nations offices. The United States had supported the transfer of United Nations units to those facilities and had constantly taken the position that decisions concerning the identification of units to be moved and the relocation schedule should be left to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General should exercise his responsibilities with special diligence so that the important functions of the units scheduled to be transferred to Vienna would not be impaired. His delegation was particularly concerned about the units of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs dealing with women, crime prevention and aging. It was also concerned about the International Trade Law Branch, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the secretariat of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. It was essential that the valuable efforts of those units should not be attenuated by dislocation. His delegation was therefore heartened by the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management that the transfer of the relevant units would be carried out so as not to affect adversely the preparation of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women and the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

39. His delegation could support draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42 and had no objection to the new preambular paragraph proposed by the representative of Kenya. However, the proposed new operative paragraph would affect the discretionary powers which should be left to the Secretary-General in carrying out the transfer of units. While reserving its position pending more careful consideration, his delegation felt that the proposed text was somewhat contrary to its customary position.

40. In conclusion, he commended the Secretary-General for his report (A/C.5/33/39) and the Advisory Committee for its thorough review (A/33/7/Add.20).

41. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that his delegation entirely shared the United States delegation's position.

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42. Mr. DAVIDSON (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the representative of Turkey, said that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/39) made it clear that every post transferred from Geneva to Vienna would result in an actual cash saving. Although the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control would be called upon to meet the initial transfer costs, it would recover, in the first year, or at the latest in the second year, the full amount of the initial outlay and would realize savings from then on.

43. In reply to the representative of Kenya, he said that the Secretary-General intended the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to be transferred intact to Vienna. There was a question, however, about the timing of the transfer of certain individuals. The Third Committee was anxious to ensure that some staff would be left behind temporarily in New York for the successful preparation of the World Conference on women and the Congress on the prevention of crime. In view of the decisions taken by the Third Committee, the Secretary-General would find it difficult to fully implement the provisions contained in paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/194 before the end of 1979, as proposed by the representative of Kenya in his amendment to the operative part of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42. The Secretary-General had reserved for the 1980 budget the financial provision required for the transfer of about a dozen staff members from the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs who, in his judgement, should remain behind in order to complete the preparation of documentation required for the World Conference and the Congress. The representative of Kenya should take those factors into account.

44. On another point raised by the representative of Kenya, he said that the figures given in foot-note 14 of the Secretary-General's report were indeed incorrect. At a previous meeting, he (Mr. Davidson) had stated that the correct figures were 114 Professional and 84 General Service posts and had explained why the error had not been removed at the time the document was being prepared. The representative of Kenya had referred to an earlier document in which figures of 60 Professional and 41 General Service posts had given a total of 101 posts for the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. If, however, to the 83 posts scheduled to be moved in 1979 were added the 17 posts (12 Professional and 5 General Service) that would remain behind, the total was 100, not 101. He wished to assure the representative of Kenya that no games were being played with the figures. The Secretary-General was giving at various times the most accurate figures available. Those figures changed from biennium to biennium and at different periods of reporting, depending on the number of extrabudgetary posts.

45. Reference had been made to the five posts proposed to be transferred to the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. That was a proposal by the Department, not one endorsed by the Secretary-General, and it had not met with the approval of CPC. The Secretary-General was consistent in his position that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and all the units approved for transfer in General Assembly resolution 31/194 would be transferred to Vienna. The only change envisaged was in deference to the concerns of the Third Committee and, in particular, of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, which had recommended that the secretariat of the

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Conference should be located in New York and that the necessary support from the Advancement of Women Branch should be assured to the Preparatory Committee. Because of that, the Secretary-General had suggested certain arrangements to the Third Committee, which had given them its full support.

46. When the question of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been raised in the Fifth Committee at the thirty-first session, he had given the assurance, on behalf of the Secretary-General, that the transfer of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in 1978, as then expected, would not adversely affect the preparation of documents required for the Congress. The representative of the Philippines had inquired whether, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, the four posts tentatively mentioned as likely to be retained in New York for a period of several months to ensure the proper preparation of documentation for the Congress were sufficient. A considerable part of the work connected with the preparation of documents for the Congress and the World Conference on women would be done by consultants supplementing the resources available from the regular Secretariat. He wished to reiterate that the figures concerning the deferment of transportation costs to the biennium 1980-1981 must be regarded as indicative figures on which the Secretary-General had not yet made a firm determination. For one thing, the Secretary-General of the World Conference was still to be appointed and the Secretary-General had assured the Third Committee that he would maintain a flexible position, would consult with the Secretary-General of the Conference and would rely on her assessment of the question which posts should be retained temporarily in New York and for how long. In order to dispel any doubts concerning the preparation of documentation for the Conference and the Congress, the Secretary-General would move the staff members concerned from New York to Vienna as soon as he could do so without adversely affecting the preparation of the Conference and the Congress.

47. The representative of Barbados had stated that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements had lost some posts. All the posts of the Centre for Housing, Building and Planning were scheduled to be redeployed to Nairobi. Some posts had already been redeployed, others would be redeployed at the end of 1978 and the remainder would follow as soon as work was completed on the preparation of documentation for the forthcoming session of the Commission on Human Settlements. The Centre had not lost any posts. On the contrary, some posts had been reassigned to it.

48. The representative of Barbados had inquired about the role played by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation in respect of document A/33/410. The Director-General had reviewed the entire draft, all his suggested changes had been incorporated, and he fully endorsed the portions of the report to which the representative of Barbados had referred.

49. In reply to the representative of Belgium, he said that the Secretary-General was not taking any position in connexion with the staff of UERWA. As long as the Agency remained in Vienna, however, it was logical to house it in premises available in the Vienna International Centre, rather than putting the Austrian authorities to the additional expense of renting outside premises. The decision

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(Mr. Davidson)

on the future of UNRWA and its location was not one for the Secretary-General and the Fifth Committee to take in the context of administrative and budgetary considerations. It was a higher policy question and would be dealt with on that basis. In that connexion, the representative of Iran had referred to paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/33/39). The paragraph stated that, should it become apparent at a later date that unused space was still available on an economical basis in the Vienna International Centre and likely to continue to be available for a reasonable period of time, the Secretary-General would bring the matter once again to the attention of the General Assembly for its consideration. He added that the Secretary-General did not consider it at all likely that significant amounts of space would be available.

50. He wished to assure the representative of Belgium that the staffing provisions for the supporting services had been made with a view to the strictest kind of economy. The representative of Belgium had referred to the security force of approximately 75 for the Vienna International Centre. It should be borne in mind that IAEA had special security requirements, that the premises at the Centre were substantially larger than United Nations premises in New York and that three round-the-clock shifts were required in both places. There were 233 security officers in New York as opposed to the 75 for the Vienna International Centre.

51. The CHAIRMAN announced that Kenya had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42.

52. Mr. CHRISTIANI (Austria) said that his delegation could support the new operative paragraph of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42 proposed by the representative of Kenya, but had not yet been able to consult the other sponsors. Austria was honoured by the new preambular paragraph also proposed by the representative of Kenya, but it was not for the Austrian delegation to say whether that paragraph was acceptable.

53. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that, in view of the concern expressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and by the United States and United Kingdom representatives, his delegation was willing to delete the words "before the end of 1979" from the proposed new operative paragraph. It did so on the understanding that, as soon as the relevant documentation was completed, the staff members in question would move to Vienna. It appreciated the difficulty of determining a precise date.

54. The CHAIRMAN said he understood that the representative of Iran was not insisting on the inclusion in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution of the words to which he had referred in his statement. He suggested that the draft resolution, with the amendments proposed by the representative of Kenya, should be put to the vote and that all explanations of vote should be made after the voting.

55. It was so decided.

56. Draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42 was adopted by 83 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

57. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to paragraph 27 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/33/7/Add.20), which contained a table showing the reductions and the additions to specific sections of the budget and the total additional appropriation of \$1,181,700 which would be required should the Advisory Committee's recommendations be approved.

58. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that paragraph 4 (originally paragraph 3) of draft resolution A/C.5/33/L.42 read:

"Approves the additional funds requested in paragraphs 38 and 39 of the report of the Secretary-General as amended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

A decision had therefore already been taken on the question of additional funds.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that generally the procedure was that the Fifth Committee took a decision on the figures in first reading, with the General Assembly later taking a decision in final reading.

60. He invited the Committee to take a decision on the total additional appropriation distributed among sections as shown in the table appearing in document A/33/7/Add.20, paragraph 27.

61. The total additional appropriation of \$1,181,700 under the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 was approved without objection.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

62. The CHAIRMAN said that document A/C.5/33/L.18/Rev.1, listing the documents which had to be dealt with by the Fifth Committee before the conclusion of the session, was not entirely up to date, since the Committee had already disposed of some of the documents listed. Accordingly, the Committee's workload was not quite as formidable as it might appear.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.