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FIFTH COMMITTEE
45th meeting
held on
Thursday, 17 November 1977
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TALIEH (Iran)

later: Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany)

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 110: UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT STAFF PENSION BOARD (continued) (A/32/9 and Add.1, A/32/319)

1. Mr. OKEYO (Chairman of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board), replying to a question from the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that the breakdown of the amount of \$7,745,931 under the heading of contributions refunded to member organizations between 1 January and 31 December 1976 (A/32/9, p. 26), was the following: United Nations, \$2,678,226; ILO, \$929,292; FAO, \$1,429,944; UNESCO, \$968,052; WHO, \$669,791; ICAO, \$335,494; WMO, \$112,167; ICITO, \$23,006; IAEA, \$179,547; IMCO, \$39,473 and ITU, \$380,939. The contributions refunded between 1 January and 30 September 1977 totalled \$6,353,990, including \$2,590,199 refunded to the United Nations. He would send the Soviet delegation in writing the figures for the sums refunded during the latter period to the other member organizations.
2. With regard to the comments made in the Committee on paragraph 2 of the report of the Board of Auditors (A/32/9, annex IV), he recalled the statement made in paragraph 74 (b) of the report (A/32/9) and explained that the problem arose from the fact that the Fund maintained two accounts with one of its banks and the error had consisted in the bank having credited funds to one of those accounts instead of to the other, as indicated on the Fund's transfer instructions. Such error involved no loss of interest to the Fund nor any payment to an incorrect recipient. While delays in having book-keeping errors corrected were regrettable, it should be noted that such delays did not cause any inconvenience or loss to the Fund or to beneficiaries, nor did they affect the Fund's cash position with its banks, since the two accounts were segregated only to facilitate the work flow, while the cash balances in both were ultimately combined to provide a true cash position. In any case, as the Board of Auditors had noted in paragraph 2 of its report, action had already been taken to avoid a recurrence.
3. In response to the request made by the United States representative (A/C.5/32/SR.38, para. 20), the Pension Board would study at its next session the provisions in the Pension Fund Regulations relating to the one-third lump sum commutation of a benefit as well as those relating to the payment of a pension to a survivor without a reduction of the primary beneficiary's pension, in the light of the International Civil Service Commission's examination of the relationship between total compensation for the international civil service and that of the United States civil service.
4. With regard to the draft agreement on the transfer of pension rights between member organizations of the Fund and the Commission of the European Communities (A/32/9/Add.1), he recalled the provisions of article 13 of the Regulations and said

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that to date such agreements had been concluded with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Government of Canada. In all cases, the purpose of the agreements had been to secure continuity of pension rights between such Governments or organizations and the Fund. It was obvious that, in order to do so, it might be necessary to transfer more than the amount which would have been immediately payable on the date of transfer of the individual had he separated from service and not transferred to the other body. The desirability of any agreement under article 13 could not therefore be judged by whether such payments might have to be made. In order to safeguard the interest of the Fund, the real test must be whether the amount payable by the Fund was more than the amount that would have had to be set aside to preserve future pension rights had the staff member continued in service in a member organization of the Fund.

5. At the same time, under the proposed agreement, the Fund was protected from the danger of having to grant rights to a staff member transferred to one of its member organizations greater than those which that staff member would have had if the amount being transferred had accumulated in the Pension Fund as a result of his service in a member organization. The Committee would find that those principles were embodied in the text of the agreement with the European Communities, which had been drafted after appropriate actuarial advice.

6. The Board had considered that the draft agreement might constitute a possible model for similar agreements with appropriate bodies, among which he personally hoped to see included the Organization of African Unity. Perhaps the Organization of American States and similar bodies, as well as Governments, might wish to study carefully the possibilities opened under article 13 of the Regulations. In the light of all those considerations, he hoped that the Committee would approve the draft agreement before it (A/32/9/Add.1) by adopting section IV of the draft resolution in annex V of document A/32/9.

7. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had taken note of the Agreement on the Transfer of Pension Rights of Participants in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and of Officials of the European Communities (A/32/9/Add.1) and had decided to transmit the agreement to the Fifth Committee for consideration and approval.

8. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, before stating its view on the substance of the question under consideration, his delegation required specific data about the actuarial implications for the Fund of the transfer of the pension rights of United Nations staff members who entered the service of the European Communities. The figures should be calculated for staff members who had, for example, 4, 6, 11 and 20 years' service with the United Nations.

9. His delegation also sought clarification about the statement by the Board (A/32/9, para. 58) that it did not regard the General Assembly guidelines on adjustment of pensions as constraints. In his delegation's view, that was a misinterpretation and more information was needed on the subject.

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(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

10. His delegation also wished to point out, in particular to the Secretariat, that the Chairman of the Board had just informed the Committee that the contributions refunded to the United Nations by the Pension Fund in 1976 had amounted to over \$2,600,000 and to a slightly smaller sum in the first nine months of 1977; nevertheless, in table 2.2 of income section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/6, vol. II), the amount of \$1,200,000 had been entered under that heading for the entire biennium 1976-1977 and a total of \$1,210,000 was projected for the entire biennium 1978-1979. The discrepancy between the figures which the Committee had just heard and the amounts appearing in the proposed programme budget was so great that it did not appear that it could possibly be due to a simple arithmetical error.

11. Mr. CUNNINGHAM (United States of America) said that the action indicated by the Chairman of the Pension Board in respect of the suggestion made by his delegation was fully acceptable to it.

12. Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) said it would be desirable for the Committee to take a decision at the current meeting on the draft resolution submitted by the Pension Board (A/32/9, annex V).

13. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation had no difficulty with the agreement with the European Communities and would be able to support section IV of the draft resolution recommended by the Pension Board. He thought that, if the agreement did not present insuperable problems for the Soviet delegation, the Committee could proceed to adopt the draft resolution and that the information requested by the Soviet delegation could be provided at another meeting.

14. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was prepared to vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Pension Board, with the exception of section IV. In his view, the Committee could not take a decision on that section without knowing the actuarial implications of the agreement with the European Communities.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone to a later meeting the adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Pension Board.

16. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979 (continued)
(A/32/6, A/32/8, A/32/38; A/C.5/32/12 and 13)

Services provided by the United Nations to activities funded from extrabudgetary resources (A/32/8/Add.9; A/C.5/31/33; A/C.5/32/29).

17. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's report on services provided by the

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United Nations to activities funded from extrabudgetary resources (A/32/8/Add.9) followed the format of the Secretary-General's second report in document A/C.5/32/29. The Advisory Committee had decided that it would be useful to annex the report it had submitted to the Governing Council of UNDP at the Council's twenty-fourth session.

18. With respect to services in support of the administrative structure of extrabudgetary activities (A/32/8/Add.9, paras. 5 to 9), in particular the services provided to UNDP and UNICEF, the Advisory Committee had noted that, as indicated by the Secretary-General, consultations were being held with UNDP to identify an equitable method of reimbursing the cost of services provided and that similar consultations would later be held with UNICEF. In that respect, the Advisory Committee considered that the machinery set up to determine the level of reimbursement should not be too elaborate; otherwise it would prove too costly in comparison to the benefits obtained. The Secretary-General would be submitting a report on the matter to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

19. With respect to services in support of technical co-operation programmes (para. 10), it should be noted that reimbursement for such services was made at the rate of 14 per cent of the cost of project delivery. However, the regular budgets of the United Nations and the other agencies of the system included expenditure that was not reimbursed. It had never been possible to calculate the exact amount of those costs, and it was questionable whether they could ever be calculated with any accuracy. A number of studies made to date, although based on imprecise data, had shown that, for example, in 1976 execution of technical co-operation projects had cost the United Nations regular budget about \$13.7 million over and above the amount reimbursed at the rate of 14 per cent.

20. A study of the situation led to two conclusions. First, the rate of reimbursement and the kinds of services for which reimbursement should be made must be decided on the basis of a political judgement and not on the basis of the findings of technical studies. Secondly, the relationship between the United Nations and the agencies of the system, on the one hand, and UNDP, on the other, was a partnership, and any decision which might be taken on the matter by the Governing Council of UNDP would have repercussions on the regular budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee felt that, before modifying the present arrangements, it was necessary to take fully into account the position of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. In that connexion, as indicated in paragraph 13 of its report, the Advisory Committee believed that, in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter, the General Assembly had a central role to play in that regard.

21. With regard to services in support of substantive activities financed by extrabudgetary resources (paras. 16 and 17), the Secretary-General had drawn a distinction between situations in which the 14 per cent reimbursement formula should be applied and those in which reimbursement of programme support costs should be waived. The Advisory Committee believed that there was not a sufficiently clear dividing line between those two categories and felt that, unless

(Mr. Mselle)

the General Assembly should decide otherwise, reimbursement should be obtained for the cost of all the services provided. The Fifth Committee might wish to take note of the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 9 and 12 to 17 of its report (A/32/8/Add.9).

First reading (continued)

Section 9 - Economic Commission for Africa (continued)

22. Mr. BAMBA (Upper Volta) announced that the African group was in favour of maintaining the level of appropriations requested by the Secretary-General for that section and therefore reiterated its proposal for the reinstatement of the sum of \$100,000 by which the Advisory Committee had recommended, in paragraph 9.17 of its report (A/32/8), that the estimate for communications should be reduced.

23. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) pointed out that ECA fostered the economic and social development of one of the world's least developed regions and had become an indispensable tool of United Nations efforts in that context. Accordingly, every effort should be made to strengthen ECA and provide it with the necessary means to enable it to act with maximum efficiency.

24. His delegation regretted the fact that the Advisory Committee had recommended that the turnover deduction rate should be increased to 10 per cent, a figure higher than those recommended for the other regional commissions. However, in view of the clarifications and assurances given, it would not insist on a reduction of that rate to 5 per cent and hoped that the vacant posts would be filled as soon as possible. He supported the proposal by the delegation of the Upper Volta with regard to the appropriation for communications.

25. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in general his delegation supported the activities of ECA and was aware of the important role which the latter played in helping developing African countries. At the same time, it felt that resources should be used as rationally as possible and therefore supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee for section 9.

26. He did not agree with the Upper Volta proposal with regard to the appropriation for communications and asked the Controller why an appropriation was being requested in order to improve communications if that would not help to save money. Although he understood the African delegations' concern that an effective communications network should be established between ECA and United Nations Headquarters, he did not see how money could not be saved if a new facility was acquired.

27. Mr. THOMAS (Trinidad and Tobago), referring to the new communications facility mentioned in paragraph 9.17 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/32/8), asked the Controller when that facility would go into operation, whether its use would reduce reliance on commercial channels and whether the reduction recommended by ACABQ would impede the activities in question.

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28. Mr. DEBATIN (Assistant Secretary-General, Controller), replying to the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, said that the new communications facility would go into operation at the end of 1977 and that, for the reasons given at the 43rd meeting of the Committee, it would not reduce reliance on commercial channels. As to whether the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee would impede activities, he explained that there would be no immediate repercussions, as \$300,000 were available for communications and there was always the possibility of requesting additional resources; however, that procedure was incompatible with the future planning function inherent in a biennial budget.

29. Replying to the representative of the USSR, he said that, although the new communications facility would not save money, it would provide a direct link between the African continent and United Nations Headquarters. With regard to the problem of vacancies in ECA, he reported that in the first nine months of 1977 the number of vacant Professional posts had dropped from 34 to 30 and steps had been taken to fill another 21 posts. With regard to locally recruited personnel, vacancies had dropped from 37 to 22 and steps had been taken to fill a further five posts. For the purposes of comparison, he indicated that at the end of September, 21 Professional posts and 6 General Service posts had been vacant in ESCAP, 14 Professional posts had been vacant in ECLA and 19 Professional posts and 32 General Service posts had been vacant in ECWA.

30. Referring to the question of temporary personnel, he recalled that for the biennium 1976-1977 an appropriation of \$893,000 had been requested for that item; such an exceptionally high amount had been required to defray the costs of 34 posts authorized by the General Assembly. For the biennium 1978-1979, \$400,500 were being requested for temporary staff in general; when compared with the figure for the current biennium, that represented a fairly substantial reduction. In spite of that, the Advisory Committee was recommending a further reduction of \$100,000 (A/32/8, para. 9.19), adducing the number of posts recommended for conversion from temporary assistance to established posts and the increase in staffing resources once the many currently vacant local-level posts were filled. With regard to the latter, he pointed out that the need for temporary staff arose during limited periods of time when the volume of work increased considerably and could not be covered by the permanent staff. He also pointed out that ECA was having difficulty in filling Professional posts and therefore had to draw on temporary staff to a large extent for its activities.

31. The Upper Volta proposal that \$100,000 should be added to the appropriation under section 9 was adopted by 84 votes to 10, with 5 abstentions.

32. An appropriation in the amount of \$23,455,500 under section 9 for the biennium 1978-1979 was approved in first reading by 91 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

33. Mr. BAMBA (Upper Volta), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation of \$23,455,500, it none the less regretted that that appropriation was so low in view of the importance of the work which ECA had to do. It requested the Secretary-General to do everything possible to ensure that ECA could do its work satisfactorily.

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Section 21 - Public Information (continued)

34. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that the activities of the Office of Public Information (OPI) must reflect the concerns of Member States and the objectives of the Charter and help to mould public opinion in favour of international peace and security, human rights and the promotion of a new international economic order. He commended the approach which CPC had adopted in examining the OPI programme budget. With regard to the suggestion that the United Nations Chronicle be published only every three or six months, his delegation suggested that a way should be found of combining the Chronicle with the weekly news summary by changing the format of the latter. His delegation was prepared to support the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget, as it attached great importance to CESI. None the less, it drew attention to the risks involved in such a practice, particularly with regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. His delegation was concerned at the delay in publishing the Yearbook of the United Nations and requested an explanation for the delay and also that consideration be given to ways of saving time and money by adopting technological innovations. He referred in particular to on-line computerized word-processing technology. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the post of the head of OPI should be reclassified and was sure that, in deciding the level of certain posts, particular account would be taken of the criteria of workload and responsibility.

35. Mr. AL-ZAID (Kuwait) commended the work done by OPI and said that his delegation was strongly in favour of retaining the United Nations Chronicle as a monthly publication.

36. Mr. OUSSEINI (Niger) said that his delegation could not understand why the Advisory Committee was categorically rejecting the Secretary-General's request for two new posts in the Press and Publications Division in order to strengthen the French-language programme. He therefore supported the proposal by the delegation of Chad that those two posts should be retained.

37. Mr. ANVAR (Secretary of the Committee) said that the proposal by the delegation of Chad that a P-3 post and a General Service post should be restored in the Press and Publications Division meant an increase of \$54,100. The proposal by the delegation of Togo that a P-3 post should be restored in the External Relations Division meant an increase of \$33,900. The first United States proposal meant reducing the appropriation for section 21 by \$203,800, representing the cost of transferring five extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget and the second proposal meant reducing the appropriation for the Yearbook of the United Nations by \$17,200.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it the following proposals: the Secretary-General's initial estimate of \$36,717,600; the Advisory Committee's recommendations for a total of \$36,354,700; the Advisory Committee's recommendations, excluding the reclassification of a P-4 post to P-5, representing \$36,399,600; two United States proposals involving a total reduction of \$221,000; the proposal by Chad that \$54,100 should be added to the appropriation recommended by the Advisory

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Committee and the proposal by Togo that \$33,900 should be added to the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee.

39. Mr. AKATANI (Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information) said that, when the documentation to be placed before the General Assembly at its thirty-third session in connexion with its examination of public information activities was prepared, the comments made by delegations would certainly be taken into account.

40. With regard to the strengthening of the French production unit, he recalled that OPI had originally requested the posts in question but had later agreed to the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, despite its doubts as to the ability of the unit to carry out additional responsibilities without corresponding additional resources. He emphasized that at the present stage the means to strengthen the unit were not available.

41. Some representatives had mentioned the production of information materials in languages common to large geographic areas, such as Spanish, Arabic and French. In the concrete case of Spanish, practically all publications were issued in that language, with the exception of certain costly materials such as the Yearbook of the United Nations. Spanish-language versions of United Nations films were standard, and weekly programmes in Spanish were broadcast by about 150 radio stations in Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain. With regard to economic and social themes, the Centre for Economic and Social Information produced a Spanish version of Development Forum, which had a wide readership in Latin America, and also produced other materials in Spanish in connexion with major United Nations conferences. Ways and means to improve the services which the information centres offered to the vast Latin American area had also been examined and ECLA had offered to contribute additional resources and materials, in view of the importance which it attached to a well-informed public opinion. The work and objectives of the United Nations relating to the new international economic order had been given a prominent role in the discussions on the subject.

42. In reply to the questions put by the representative of the Philippines concerning the recommendations made by CPC on section 21, he said that an opportunity to discuss them would occur when the report of CPC was discussed, but that the answers might be found in the relevant paragraphs of document A/C.5/32/26.

43. In reply to the representative of Venezuela, he said that in the Radio and Visual Services Division there were four staff members of Latin American or Spanish nationality, and the Chief of the Information Support Section of the External Relations Division was also Latin American. In addition, seven information centres were headed by a Latin American or Spanish Director, and OPI had altogether some 58 General Service staff members of Latin American nationalities. However, the situation needed to be improved; that applied also to the Visual Service, where out of 29 Professional staff members only 4 were from developing countries. For the Division as a whole, 16 out of 58 Professional posts were

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(Mr. Akatani)

held by staff members from developing countries, and of two vacant posts one had been specifically earmarked for Africa. The imbalance would be corrected as soon as possible, but that would take some time, since it would have to be done by attrition in the absence of new posts.

44. Periodically a short-term contract was offered to a film director or producer, and that did not show up in the staffing table. At present, the Office had a producer from Bangladesh and a director from Senegal.

45. All the comments made by delegations would be taken into account in the formulation of the next medium-term plan, in the implementation of the 1978-1979 programme budget and in the preparations for the in-depth review of OPI activities scheduled for the thirty-third session of the General Assembly.

46. Mr. SHARMA (Nepal) proposed that the United Nations Chronicle should continue to be published monthly.

47. Mr. ANVAR (Secretary of the Committee) said that all the proposals to be voted on included the appropriation for monthly publication of the Chronicle.

48. Mr. APALOO (Togo) stressed the importance of OPI activities, which enabled French-speaking countries to be informed about United Nations activities. His delegation was prepared to withdraw its proposal and support the proposal of the delegation of Chad, which it urged the Committee to support.

49. Mr. ARMENTO (Italy) said that he would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, mainly because of the great importance his Government attached to the work of the information services, as evidenced by its support of the Information Centre in Rome, for which it would provide rent-free premises. However, as stated in paragraph 21.2 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/32/8), the Secretary-General's estimates were a mere projection of the appropriations for the current biennium, and it was therefore very difficult to judge whether the amounts requested were appropriate. It was essential that the General Assembly should be able to adopt its decisions with full knowledge of the facts, and he regretted the practice of transferring to the regular budget posts financed from extrabudgetary resources.

50. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) said that he supported the Chad proposal because he shared the concern of a number of delegations at the difficulties encountered by OPI services which worked in languages other than English. In general, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which reflected the wish that OPI should effectively carry out its function of informing the world of the objectives of the United Nations Charter, especially with regard to the struggle against colonialism, racism and apartheid, development assistance and the establishment of a new international economic order.

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(Mr. Khamis, Algeria)

51. His delegation strongly welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal that the post of head of OPI should be reclassified to the Under-Secretary-General level, and hoped that consideration would be given at a future time to the possibility of similar action with regard to other posts, particularly that of Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services.

52. Mr. GOSS (Australia) said that his delegation would support all the Advisory Committee's recommendations, since it had not been convinced by the opposing views expressed in the Committee.

53. Mr. AL SHARAFI (Yemen) said that his delegation supported the Chad amendment.

54. Miss MUCK (Austria) said that her delegation would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, with the amendment proposed by the delegation of Chad. She also drew the attention of the Committee to General Assembly resolution 31/194, which had been adopted by consensus, and to paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's report in document A/C.5/31/34, which referred to the utilization of office accommodation and conference facilities at the Donaupark Centre in Vienna.

55. In view of the transfer to Vienna of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the operations of UNIDO, IAEA and other units there, her delegation felt that the existing UNIDO information unit would not be adequate to handle all information needs and that it should be converted into an information service combining the functions relating to UNIDO with those relating to all the other Secretariat units which had been or were being transferred to Vienna. Her Government would provide cost-free premises for such an information service, and she hoped that the Secretary-General would thoroughly study the question and submit a specific proposal at the next session of the General Assembly.

56. Mr. Schmidt (Federal Republic of Germany) took the Chair.

57. Mr. IYER (India) said that his delegation supported the amendments concerning the establishment of additional posts for information services working in languages other than English and the request that five CESI posts financed from extrabudgetary resources should be transferred to the regular budget. His delegation would abstain from voting on the United States proposal regarding the Yearbook of the United Nations, since it recognized that the Advisory Committee, in its recommendation, had taken into account all aspects of the case; it also reiterated its concern at the delays in publishing the Yearbook.

58. Mr. LEMP (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations reflected careful study of and a balanced approach to, the situation in OPI. In order to maintain that balance, his delegation would support all the Advisory Committee's recommendations and could not, therefore, support the proposals by the delegations of Chad and the United States.

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59. Mr. LACHANCE (Canada) said that his delegation would vote for the Chad proposal since it felt that publications should be circulated more widely in French. It would also vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations although it wished to go on record as protesting against the delay in publishing the United Nations Yearbook.

60. Mr. THOMAS (Trinidad and Tobago) said he agreed that the Advisory Committee's recommendations maintained a proper balance and would therefore vote against the United States proposal. He would, however, support the Chad proposal.

61. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations as well as the Chad proposal, which reflected the concern of delegations from non-English-speaking countries. Although he endorsed the reclassification of the post of head of OPI to the Under-Secretary-General level, he thought it necessary to study the possibility of taking similar action with regard to other posts, including those of Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services and Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services.

62. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation would vote for the Chad proposal since it seemed to have the support of many delegations. His delegation had certain reservations concerning the United States representative's proposals, particularly the proposal concerning the United Nations Yearbook, and would therefore vote against that proposal.

63. Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that his delegation would vote for the Chad proposal and against the United States proposals. It endorsed the recommendation concerning reclassification of the post of head of OPI and supported the observations by the Algerian and Kenyan representatives concerning reclassification of the posts of other department heads.

64. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation would vote against the United States proposals so as not to weaken CESI. It would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, as amended by Chad.

65. Mr. AKASHI (Japan) said that his delegation would vote against the United States proposal to transfer posts to the regular budget because it recognized the important role being played by CESI in the field of economic and social information and in that of interagency co-ordination with regard to public information. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the United States proposal concerning the United Nations Yearbook and would vote for the Chad proposal.

66. Mr. ELDON (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations and against the Chad and United States proposals.

67. Mr. BAMBA (Upper Volta) said that his delegation would vote for the Chad proposal and against the United States proposals.

68. Mr. HARDING (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation would vote for the Chad proposal and the remaining recommendations of the Advisory Committee and against the United States proposals.

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69. Mr. MPAY (United Republic of Cameroon) said that his delegation would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, as amended by the Chad proposal, and would not be able to support the United States proposals.

70. Mr. OUATTARA (Ivory Coast) said that he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations with the addition provided for by the Chad proposal but could not support the United States proposals.

71. Mr. N'DONG-NSOME (Gabon) associated himself with the praise expressed for the Advisory Committee and said that he supported the Chad proposal.

72. Mr. OLAITAN (Nigeria) said that he supported the reclassification from Assistant Secretary-General to the Under-Secretary-General level. He also supported the Chad proposal because he considered it essential to strengthen the French Language Production Unit. With regard to the United States proposals, he would abstain in the vote on the first and would vote against the reduction proposed for the Yearbook.

73. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had already stated in detail his delegation's negative position concerning the transfer to the regular budget of posts financed with extrabudgetary funds, which was completely illegal and would have far-reaching consequences. He supported the United States proposal concerning the reduction of appropriations for transfers but could not support the Chad proposal to add two posts to the Press and Publications Division, since such an increase was not justified in view of the size of the Division's staff.

74. Mr. ABDEL-FATTAH (Egypt) expressed appreciation for the information provided by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information concerning the geographical distribution of OPI posts and for his promise to take action in that regard. When the vote was taken, he would support the Advisory Committee's recommendation, as amended by the Chad proposal.

75. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said that, although he wished to reaffirm his opposition in principle to the practice of including in the regular budget posts financed with extrabudgetary funds, he would be compelled to abstain in the vote on the first United States proposal. With regard to the second proposal, he wished to hear the opinion of the Controller and would like the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to indicate whether it was possible to effect savings in that item, since in that case there would be no need to take a vote.

76. Mr. KEDADI (Tunisia), expressing appreciation for the work of OPI, noted that he had requested that its activities should appear as a separate item on the General Assembly's agenda. His Government had co-operated closely with OPI and had had occasion to hold a meeting on the new international economic order. His delegation had always tended to support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, but it regarded the Chad proposal as a reasonable measure designed to prevent information services from being confined largely to a single language. He supported the proposal for reclassification from Assistant Secretary-General to the Under-Secretary-General level, particularly since he was in favour of reclassifying all

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(Mr. Kedadi, Tunisia)

existing Assistant Secretary-General posts in view of the importance of the departments concerned, especially the Office of Personnel Services and the Office of Financial Services. He would have a great deal of difficulty in supporting the United States proposals.

77. Mr. MARVILLE (Barbados) said that he would vote against the first United States proposal for the reasons indicated by the representative of Japan. With regard to the Yearbook, he was also unable to support the United States proposal but wished to express concern at the chronic delay in publishing the Yearbook. He favoured the Chad proposal and, subject to that change, would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

78. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in accordance with rule 130 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee should vote first on the two United States proposals for further reductions of \$203,800 and \$17,200 respectively, then on the Chad proposal for an additional appropriation of \$54,100 and, finally, on the total appropriation for the biennium 1978-1979 in the light of the results of the previous votes.

79. The United States proposal for a further reduction of \$203,800 was rejected by 74 votes to 9, with 12 abstentions.

80. The United States proposal for a further reduction of \$17,200 was rejected by 63 votes to 9, with 23 abstentions.

81. The Chad proposal for an additional appropriation of \$54,100 was adopted by 74 votes to 13, with 11 abstentions.

82. An appropriation in the amount of \$36,393,700 under section 21 for the biennium 1978-1979 was approved in first reading by 92 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.

83. The CHAIRMAN said that the additional posts would be included in first reading in expenditure section 25 and the corresponding staff assessments in income section 1.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.