



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 61st 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 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (continued)

Report on first-class travel in the United Nations organizations (continued)
(A/32/272 and Add.1, A/32/384)

1. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said that the Joint Inspection Unit's report was soundly based and well documented, and savings could obviously be made by reducing the eligibility for first-class travel. However, while economy was important, there were some other considerations to be taken into account. Officials or representatives were not travelling for pleasure or for status, but for work. It was undeniable that first-class travel made such journeys more tolerable. He agreed with the French delegation's view that the duration of the journey should be taken into account. His own delegation was only too aware of the effects of long journeys by air. There was also the question of how soon after arrival travellers had to begin work. Delegations to the General Assembly were often headed by ministers or senior officials and it was probable that the practice of their Governments would be for them to travel first class. In such cases, United Nations travel regulations had to be comparable with national practice. It was not therefore just a question of making savings; he agreed with the statement of the representative of Ghana that the demands of economy should not be confused with Spartan living.

2. Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that the JIU report showed that 60 per cent of the cost of first-class travel for the whole system was attributable to the United Nations itself and several hundred delegates to subsidiary organs or bodies were currently using first-class travel. It had been shown that costs could be reduced by over 30 per cent, and even by as much as 80 per cent in certain cases, if economy-class travel was used. The difference in services and comfort between the two classes did not justify the extra cost.

3. It was encouraging that some senior officials entitled to use first-class travel had in fact chosen to travel by economy class, without any loss of prestige, as in the case of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the members of the Joint Inspection Unit itself, although it appeared that the members of ACABQ had not yet followed that example. Adoption of the JIU recommendations would lead to an annual saving of approximately \$777,000. The Advisory Committee had described that sum as minimal, but it had to be seen in the context of the Organization's financial crisis. His delegation was more than ever convinced of the need to make greater savings and to adopt a more uniform, not to say more democratic, system for travel. It was therefore inclined to associate itself with JIU recommendations 1 (a), (b) and (d) (A/32/272, p. 18), but it had some reservations with regard to recommendations 1 (c) and (e). The present

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(Mr. Fall, Senegal)

practice of allowing first-class travel for the Secretary-General was above criticism, but a provision for "exceptional cases" could prove to be a Trojan horse. He favoured discontinuing first-class travel for Under-Secretaries-General, Assistant Secretaries-General, members serving in an individual capacity, and representatives to the General Assembly. He understood that at the moment the cost of one first-class and four economy-class tickets was reimbursed to representatives attending the General Assembly. He did not believe that the adoption of the JIU recommendation that all five tickets should be economy class would cause more than minimal inconvenience to Member States. He hoped that it would be possible to reach a consensus on the whole issue of first-class travel.

4. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said he believed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/98 remained relevant but, if there was to be a re-examination of the question, his delegation would support the proposal that all members of the Secretariat, with the exception of the Secretary-General, should travel by economy class. First-class travel should be maintained for heads of delegations to regular, special or extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly, who often held the rank of Foreign Minister. Individuals appointed by United Nations bodies or subsidiary organs to undertake special studies should travel by economy class. He had noted that members serving in their individual capacity, such as the members of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, already travelled by economy class. Substantial savings could be effected, and he hoped that at the next session the Fifth Committee would have before it a report showing the breakdown of first-class travel authorized in exceptional cases, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 31/98.

5. Mr. ANDERSSON (Sweden) expressed the view that JIU had made a very good case for budgetary restraint without impairing the efficiency of the United Nations system. Approximately \$1 million could be saved annually without any loss of effectiveness. He appreciated the fact that UNDP and JIU had already taken the initiative and felt that JIU proposals satisfied reasonable health and prestige requirements. If they were put to the vote, his delegation would vote in favour of them.

6. Mr. HART (Australia) said he wondered whether the introduction of the criterion of duration of journey might not lead to a feeling of discrimination on the part of those who, while not qualifying for first-class travel on the basis of status, were travelling long distances.

7. The CHAIRMAN explained that any criterion regarding duration of journey would apply only to those officials currently entitled to first-class travel.

8. Mr. BERTRAND (Joint Inspection Unit) said that the Unit had considered the question of duration of journey in its deliberations and had noted that certain agencies paid first-class travel for journeys exceeding nine hours. It had, however, rejected the idea for the reasons implicit in the question raised by the representative of Australia. The application of a fatigue factor would obviously have had to apply to all grades.

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9. Mr. HANNAH (New Zealand) said he recognized the complexity of the problem and would be interested to hear the views of other delegations. One solution applied by some national Governments was to allow stop-overs during long journeys.
10. Mr. CUNNINGHAM (United States of America), supported by Mr. FALL (Senegal), proposed that further discussion of the item be postponed pending the submission of a draft resolution.
11. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that most speakers seemed to support the JIU recommendations, which were just and would result in appreciable savings. His delegation shared that view and would be ready to participate in a consensus. A draft resolution on the subject could be very simple, merely stating that the Committee endorsed the JIU recommendations.
12. The CHAIRMAN said that further discussion of the question would be deferred to enable delegations to draft a resolution which could be adopted by consensus.

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)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/32/L.3 concerning agenda item 12 (A/32/8/Add.21; A/C.5/32/63, A/C.5/32/72, A/C.5/32/73)

13. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had accepted the Secretary-General's statement contained in paragraph 8 of his report (A/C.5/32/63) with regard to the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (A/C.2/32/L.3). ACABQ was recommending that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, if it were to adopt the draft resolution in question, an additional amount of \$203,500 would be required under section 9 of the programme budget. The Advisory Committee had taken note of the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 7 of the report indicating that an additional sum of \$41,000 might be required if the meeting of ministers was held elsewhere than at Addis Ababa, and that no request had been made for an additional appropriation for that purpose.
14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.3, an additional amount of \$203,500 would be required under section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.
15. It was so decided.
16. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported the basic aims of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.3 but hoped that the Secretary-General might be able to find ways to meet the costs involved under the existing appropriations for section 9.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the Second Committee in documents A/C.2/32/L.21, L.29, L.42 and L.43 concerning agenda item 12 (A/32/8/Add.21; A/C.5/32/72, A/C.5/32/73)

17. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider first the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolutions regarding the United Nations International Assistance Programme (A/C.2/32/L.21, L.29, L.42 and L.43) as set out in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/32/72) and then the revised estimates under sections 1, 22, 25 and income section 1, to be found in document A/C.5/32/73.

18. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) reported that the Advisory Committee had accepted the Secretary-General's request for an additional appropriation of \$68,200 under section 1.

19. In view of the increasing demands being placed on the Secretary-General pursuant to the various recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee in regard to missions and assistance to various countries, the Advisory Committee was prepared to accept the revised estimates set out in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/32/73) in the sum of \$428,000 under section 1 and \$27,000 under section 22. A further \$90,700 would be required under section 25, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

20. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions A/C.2/32/L.21, L.29, L.42 and L.43, additional requirements of \$68,200 would arise under section 1 of the proposed programme budget.

21. It was so decided.

22. An additional appropriation of \$455,000 under sections 1 and 22 and \$90,700 under section 25, the latter to be offset by additional revenue in the same amount under income section 1, was approved by consensus.

Section 1 - Over-all policy-making, direction and co-ordination (continued)
(A/C.5/32/L.26; A/C.5/32/CRP.10)

A. Policy-making organs

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he was somewhat surprised by the strong objections which the Controller had raised at the 57th meeting with respect to the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 1.5 of its report (A/C.5/32/SR.57, paras. 104-107). He reminded members of the Fifth Committee that, in accordance with the appropriation resolution, the amount allocated to contractual printing was administered as a unit under the direction of the Publications Board. During the

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(Mr. Mselle)

current biennium 1976-1977, there was an under-expenditure of \$460,000 in connexion with the printing of General Assembly records; furthermore, the amounts actually spent on printing were less than the appropriations for that purpose under almost every section of the budget. It was somewhat perplexing to learn that, if the Assembly adopted the Advisory Committee's recommendations, there would be insufficient funds to print the records of the General Assembly, bearing in mind that nothing would prevent the Secretary-General from transferring funds from other sections of the budget, should the need arise.

24. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in accordance with the information supplied by the Secretariat at his delegation's request, as at 1 October an amount of over \$2 million appropriated for external printing costs was as yet unspent. Since the Secretariat was opposed to the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 1.5 of document A/32/8, he requested that up-to-date figures should be supplied in order that the Committee might see to what extent those objections were justified.

25. Mr. ZIEHL (Deputy Controller) said that the Controller's statement at the 57th meeting had dealt exclusively with external printing costs. The Controller had felt compelled to make the statement because of information from the Department of Conference Services that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee could not be absorbed. The Secretariat would be glad to supply the information requested by the USSR delegation, but that would need a little time.

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further consideration of section 1 A should be deferred until the necessary information had been received.

27. It was so decided.

B. Executive direction and management (A/32/8/Add.3; A/C.5/32/15)

28. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/32/15 would more than double the current establishment of the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs; such growth was unprecedented in United Nations history and would, moreover, involve additional expenditure of \$292,400. His delegation was opposed to the proposals because no new duties were assigned to the Office in question and, furthermore, they would bring about duplication with the work of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. Indeed, there seemed to be a good case for abolishing posts, rather than creating new ones and even transferring posts from other departments of the Secretariat. His delegation was also against the proposed upgrading of two existing posts from D-1 to D-2. It would vote against the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the subject.

29. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) reminded members that the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs had been created by resolution 886 (IX), which had not been amended since its adoption. That

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(Mr. Stuart, United Kingdom)

resolution, in approving the Secretary-General's report on the subject, had implicitly endorsed a proposal by the Secretary-General to the effect that the Under-Secretaries-General without departments would have assignments which cut across the competence of several departments. Thus, it could be seen that the arguments advanced by the preceding speaker with respect to duplication were not valid. Likewise, at the ninth session the Secretary-General had distributed to all delegations the report of the survey group on which the General Assembly had based resolution 886 (IX). In its report, that group had recommended that the two Under-Secretaries-General should be provided at the outset with a minimal staff only and that such staff should be gradually enlarged as developments required, with the expectation of its ultimately comprising a permanently established pool of approximately 10 carefully selected Professional officers; the group had added that additional staff members might be assigned on an ad hoc basis from other departments and offices of the Secretariat. Since the General Assembly's approval of that report, the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs had seen their workload increase without any growth of staff. The proposals for strengthening the Office submitted at the current session appeared to be moderate. His delegation therefore supported those proposals, as modified by the Advisory Committee.

30. Mr. McMAHON (Ireland) said that the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs had long been under-staffed in relation to the important functions which it carried out, particularly in the area of United Nations peace-keeping operations. His delegation had noted in particular the Secretary-General's statement concerning the need for a review of the logistic and administrative problems of maintaining peace-keeping forces (A/C.5/32/15, para. 12) and looked forward to the study on the feasibility of integrating into the work of the Office the peace-keeping functions of the Field Operations Service (ibid.). His delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations, although it regretted that Committee's opposition concerning the P-3 post requested by the Secretary-General to strengthen the research capabilities of the Office.

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

32. Mr. AKASHI (Japan) said that the proposals for new posts and reclassifications, as modified by the Advisory Committee, were entirely justified, bearing in mind that the tasks entrusted to the Office were extremely complex and confidential and required great dispatch. The representative of the Soviet Union had mentioned the possibility of duplication with the work of other departments; however, it seemed clear from paragraph 5 of document A/32/8/Add.3 that the Advisory Committee had inquired into that possibility and had satisfied itself that the Office did not engage in basic research.

33. Mr. HAUDY (France) said that his delegation endorsed the Advisory Committee's report (A/32/8/Add.3), which was well balanced and provided an appropriate analysis of the question. The observations made by previous speakers, in particular the representatives of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Japan, made further comment superfluous.

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34. Mr. HART (Australia) commended the Office for its work in the area of peace-keeping operations and supported the recommendations designed to strengthen the Office.

35. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) endorsed the comments of previous speakers concerning the important work carried out by the Office and said that his delegation would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

36. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, responsibility for peace-keeping operations rested with the Security Council and that Secretariat work in that area should be carried out by the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. The fact that the Secretary-General had entrusted functions to another Office - a decision with which his delegation had not agreed - did not alter that Charter requirement. Any expansion of the Office would further increase the possibility of duplication with the work of the competent Department. Moreover, the Office's workload had diminished from 11 to 5 peace-keeping operations. His delegation would therefore vote against the approval of additional appropriations.

37. Mr. DEBATIN (Assistant Secretary-General, Controller), speaking with reference to section 1.B of the proposed programme budget, reminded members that the Secretary-General's representation allowance had remained at its present level since 1963 and was outdated in terms of purchasing power. Although the Secretary-General would be fully justified in making a request to restore the value of that allowance, he had decided for reasons of economy not to submit proposals to that effect. The appropriation for hospitality, which had been in existence for many years, was designed to finance State functions held in honour of Heads of States and other high-ranking dignitaries. An increase in that provision was being sought (A/32/6, table 1.20) because the Secretary-General was increasingly required to maintain close contact with Ministers for Foreign Affairs during their visits to Headquarters or in the course of his official visits to various countries. The amount of approximately \$9,000 under the heading of furniture and equipment (A/32/6, table 1.20) was needed for the replacement of the Secretary-General's automobile. In accordance with the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/32/8, para. 1.22), the Secretariat had made inquiries concerning the rental of an automobile and had discovered that the cost of a 26-month lease would be approximately \$17,000, or substantially more than the sum requested for the purchase of a new vehicle.

Section 22. Administration, Management and General Services (continued)
(A/C.5/32/L.28)

38. Mr. AKASHI (Japan) said that his delegation had held consultations with all the interested delegations and was pleased to announce that the following draft decision on section 22.E received general support:

"1. The Fifth Committee takes note of the observations of ACABQ in paragraph 22.55 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 (A/32/8), as well as of the views expressed in the Fifth

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(Mr. Akashi, Japan)

Committee on this question, which the Secretary-General is invited to take into account; in the meantime, the present organizational arrangements will be maintained;

"2. The Fifth Committee decides to return to and consider the questions raised by ACABQ and by the 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 its agenda under General Assembly resolution 31/94 C. It is the Fifth Committee's understanding that all the options will be open to it when it considers this matter at that time."

39. Mr. WEBB (Office of Personnel Services), speaking with reference to paragraph 22.49 of the programme budget (A/32/6), reminded members that both JIU and AMS, in their recommendations on the Office of Personnel Services, had pointed to the need to improve the programme for the rotation and assignment of staff and to develop a more systematic method of long-range career planning. By reassigning staff within the Office, two posts had been freed for that purpose. However, a far greater workload had developed than had been expected and was absorbing the time of the two officers in question. An additional P-3 post was essential in order to relieve the Chief of the unit concerned of day-to-day operational programmes and thus enable him to develop career programmes.

40. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), speaking with reference to paragraph 22.46 of document A/32/8, said that, in view of the substantial increases in rates announced by the New York Telephone Company, it was doubtful whether \$90,000 would be sufficient to cover the costs of long-distance telephone calls. His delegation accordingly proposed that the \$114,700 requested by the Secretary-General should be restored. In connexion with section 22.H (General Services Division, Geneva), he proposed that two of the posts for messenger/ushers whose creation was being opposed by the Advisory Committee should be restored. He further proposed the reinstatement of the P-3 post required by the Office of Personnel Services in the area of career development.

41. Mr. LANDAU (Austria) emphasized the need for career development within the United Nations Secretariat and endorsed the third proposal made by the preceding speaker.

42. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) expressed support for the second and third proposals of the representative of the Philippines. Many delegations had stressed the need for an intensified career development programme and the possibility for young Professional officers to participate in decision-making in the Secretariat.

43. Mr. HART (Australia) endorsed the proposal for the reinstatement of the P-3 post for career development requested by the Secretary-General.

Draft proposals arising out of consideration of the proposed programme budget (A/C.5/32/L.27, L.29, L.32, L.33 and L.37)

44. Mr. SERRANO AVILA (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 and referring to the first preambular paragraph of that draft resolution, said that in

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(Mr. Serrano Avila, Cuba)

the last 10 years, prices in the developed countries in which the United Nations had headquarters had risen by approximately 75 per cent, and there had been a similar increase in the United Nations budget and in the contributions of Member States. The debate on the scale of assessments at the thirty-first session and the current session had demonstrated the concern of some Governments with respect to increases in their rate of assessment, but the real cause for concern was increases due to inflation, which affected all Member States. The problem of inflation was particularly serious for developing countries. In developed countries, the effects of inflation were offset by increases in the prices of exports, but in developing countries inflation was not necessarily offset by any corresponding rise in the price of commodities, since the latter depended on market forces. It was therefore the developing countries that paid the price of inflation, since their contributions to the budget of the United Nations increased, whereas the prices of their commodities often decreased. The problem of monetary instability was also extremely important, since 25 per cent of the United Nations costs were incurred in Switzerland, and the value of the dollar against the Swiss franc was half what it had been in 1970.

45. With respect to the second preambular paragraph, it was claimed that all countries were responsible for inflation, but that was not true. Inflation was generated in certain developed countries as a result of the erroneous monetary and fiscal policies pursued by those countries, and it was then transmitted to developing countries through the international economic system. Some developed countries actually encouraged inflation as a means of promoting economic expansion and it was therefore important that those countries should cover the losses incurred by other countries. It was also claimed that developing countries must bear some responsibility for inflation because of increases in the prices of commodities. That was not true, since inflation had existed before the prices of commodities had risen and it continued even when the prices of commodities fell. It was therefore clear that rises in the prices of commodities did not cause inflation, and that developing countries were adversely affected by inflation in developed countries but not vice versa.

46. The developed countries were also responsible for monetary instability. The dollar had been devalued in 1971, fixed exchange rates had been abolished and the developed countries were running huge trade deficits. However, despite the fact that the developed countries in which the United Nations had headquarters were responsible for the generation of inflation, those same countries derived great benefits from the presence of the headquarters in their territory. Five years before, his delegation had calculated that New York earned \$1 billion from the United Nations each year, or \$2-4 billion if the multiplier effect was taken into account. According to a recent article in The New York Times, the income accruing to New York as a result of the presence there of the United Nations now amounted to \$450 million, or \$1.3-2.5 billion when the multiplier effect was taken into account. Moreover, the value of the land surrounding the Headquarters building in New York had increased enormously and, if the profit derived from investments by the Pension Fund in North American companies was taken into account, it could be seen that \$3-5 billion flowed into the United States economy annually as a result of the presence

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(Mr. Serrano Avila, Cuba)

of the United Nations in New York. Even if the United States paid the entire United Nations budget, it would still make a huge profit. Draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 asked only that the developed countries in which the United Nations had headquarters should cover the losses incurred by the United Nations as a result of inflation. With respect to the profits earned by developed countries as a result of inflation, it must be pointed out that inflation and monetary instability also had an important effect on the external debt of the developed countries. Indeed, if inflation continued, that external debt would be wiped out.

47. It had been claimed that draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 was inconsistent with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations. However, expenditure resulting from inflation could not be regarded as ordinary "expenses", since such expenditure did not give rise to the acquisition of goods or services. Accordingly, special arrangements like those set up for UNEF should be instituted to cover losses resulting from inflation.

48. Mr. Talieh (Iran) resumed the Chair.

49. Mr. HAHN (Canada), supported by Mr. GARCIA (Brazil), said that draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 affected the scale of assessments, on which the Committee had already taken a decision. Thus, in accordance with rule 123 of the rules of procedure, the Committee could not consider draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 unless a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting so decided.

50. Mr. KEFFA (Ivory Coast) said that he agreed with the representatives of Canada and Brazil. Moreover, it would be inappropriate for the Committee to discuss such an important matter at such a late stage of the session and on the basis of an article published in The New York Times. He therefore suggested that the issue dealt with in draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 should be discussed in the context of the scale of assessments at the thirty-third session.

51. Mr. SERRANO AVILA (Cuba) said that the aim of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 was not to change the scale of assessments but to establish a special procedure for covering losses resulting from inflation. The representative of the Ivory Coast had said that the Fifth Committee could not base its discussion on an article in The New York Times, but the Cuban delegation had submitted data on the profit derived by the United States from the presence of the United Nations in New York, and that data had never been challenged. With respect to the claim that the Committee did not have enough time to consider such an important question, draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 had been submitted on 1 December 1977 and should therefore have priority over other draft resolutions before the Committee. His delegation opposed the suggestion to postpone consideration of the item until the thirty-third session.

52. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there was no basis for the procedural point raised by the representatives of Canada and Brazil, since it was clear that the purpose of draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 was not to establish a new scale of assessments. There was similarly no justification for the proposal to postpone consideration of the question, since the draft resolution had

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(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

been before the Committee since 1 December 1977. The draft resolution could have been considered at an earlier date if the Chairman of the Committee had so wished. The problem dealt with in draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 was not new and affected all Member States. It should therefore be dealt with at the current session.

53. Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) recalled that the Cuban delegation had submitted similar proposals to the General Assembly in the past, but those proposals had received minimal support. His delegation agreed that the question dealt with in draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 was important, but since it did not affect the scale of assessments it was not urgent. He therefore proposed that the Committee postpone consideration of the issue until the thirty-third session.

54. The proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany was adopted by 56 votes to 20, with 15 abstentions.

55. Mr. IDJI (Benin) said that his delegation had voted against the proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany since it considered that there was enough time to consider draft resolution A/C.5/32/L.27 at the current session. It was to be hoped that the question of the effects of inflation and monetary instability would be given the priority it deserved at the thirty-third session.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

56. Mr. ANDRIANKIRIJA (Madagascar) suggested that, since the Committee had very little time in which to complete its work, delegations should be requested not to explain their vote after a vote.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.