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Chairman: Mr. Omar LOUTFI (Egypt).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Calogeropoulos-Stralis (Greece), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 51

United Nations salary, allowance and benefits system: report of the Salary Review Committee (A/3209, A/3505 and Corr.1, A/C.5/691 and Add.1 to 3, A/C.5/L.445 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.446) (*continued*)

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/C.5/L.445 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/L.446) (*continued*)

1. The SECRETARY-GENERAL¹ said that he had given careful consideration to the United States representative's proposal (591st meeting) for a 2 per cent increase in base salary for Professional staff throughout the common system. The proposal had certain advantages: it would go some way towards narrowing the gap between pensionable remuneration and total remuneration and a considerable way towards adjusting base salary to the rise in cost of living which had taken place in Geneva between August 1951 and 1 January

¹ The full text of the statement made by the Secretary-General will be found in document A/C.5/706.

1956, an adjustment for which provision was made in the Salary Review Committee's proposals. On the other hand a decision to maintain the Salary Review Committee's proposal regarding basic salary scales and to place New York in class 5 for post adjustment purposes would result in larger and justified increase in the take-home pay of Professional staff at Headquarters and would more realistically reflect the true costs and standards of living at Geneva and New York respectively. Furthermore, by reason of the dependency factor in the post adjustment system, the increase would be distributed in a way that took into account the higher costs of family life in the New York area.

2. The United States proposal would cost an estimated \$250,000 net a year for the United Nations Secretariat; comparable costs for the specialized agencies would amount to approximately \$310,000 net a year, making a total of \$560,000 net. Since the increase would also apply to the contribution to pensions, the total cost for the United Nations family would be in the order of \$650,000 net a year. On the other hand, acceptance of the basic scales proposed by the Salary Review Committee, combined with a decision to place New York in class 5 as of 1 January 1957, would cost an estimated \$335,000 net a year, the financial implications being confined to Headquarters.

3. The United States proposal was constructive and had the special merit of attempting to find a common solution to the problem of the base salaries of Professional staff throughout the United Nations family. His own proposal, on the other hand, gave special recognition to the pressing problem of providing adequate and equitable remuneration for the Professional staff in New York. In that context, the United States proposal fell considerably short of what he believed to be justified. Had the United States proposal provided for a considerably larger increase in base salaries, it would have dealt with both the general situation and the situation in New York in particular. The cost, in 1957, of such a solution would, however, be considerably greater than that of the United States proposal or of his own proposal and he recognized the difficulty in which that would place the Committee.

4. In the circumstances, he felt that the Committee would wish to keep before it his proposal that New York should be placed in class 5 as of 1 January 1957.

5. Mr. JONES (United States of America) noted with regret that the Secretary-General maintained his position in spite of the arguments advanced by the United States delegation. That was a disappointment and he would withdraw his proposal.

6. Mr. ASHA (Syria) was glad to see that the Secretary-General had not changed his attitude. He was now more than ever convinced that the only reasonable solution was to place New York in class 5 and he was grateful to the United States delegation which, by withdrawing its proposal, had facilitated a decision

by the Committee. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General's proposal would be approved by a very large majority.

7. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the vote should be deferred until the next meeting as previously agreed.

8. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the proposal.

9. Mr. POLLOCK (Canada) suggested that, as the Committee still had a heavy agenda, it should proceed immediately to a discussion of the Secretary-General's proposal and then vote on it, in order to avoid any loss of time.

10. Mr. ASHA (Syria) pointed out that the vote had been scheduled for the afternoon meeting and that sufficient delegations were not present. It would be unfortunate to put the Secretary-General's proposal to the vote in the absence of representatives of several States. He hoped that the Canadian representative would not press his suggestion.

11. Mr. POLLOCK (Canada) proposed, as a compromise, that the Committee should take up the next item on its agenda and resume consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal at the end of the meeting, if there was sufficient time.

12. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported that proposal.

13. Mr. NAIK (Pakistan) requested the Canadian representative to withdraw his proposal. Only fifty delegations were present in the Committee and as many members of the Committee as possible should be there for a vote on such an important matter.

14. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should pass on to the next item on its agenda.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 43

Budget estimates for the financial year 1957 A/C.5/703, A/C.5/L.451) (continued)*

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (A/C.5/703, A/C.5/L.451)

15. Mr. NATARAJAN (India) said that, although the Secretary-General had submitted a report in connexion with the budget estimates for 1957 (A/C.5/703), he had not requested an appropriation for the United Nations International School. The Indian delegation had joined the delegation of Peru and Uruguay in presenting a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.451) which gave the General Assembly an opportunity to reaffirm its interest in an extremely useful institution. His delegation hoped that Member States would continue to give practical evidence of their support for the International School.

16. Mr. PAREJA Y PAZ SOLDAN (Peru) introduced the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/L.451. Reviewing the history of the International School, he recalled that the number of nationalities represented in the student body was now thirty-five, as compared with twenty-three in the previous year (A/C.5/703, para. 6). The fact that the International School did not require a subsidy from the United Nations for the year 1957 was very encouraging, but that did not mean that subsidies to the School

should be completely discontinued. Not only was the School closely linked with the United Nations, but its financial difficulties were largely due to its connexion with the Organization, since it was estimated that, over the last four years, the annual loss directly attributable to the fact that parents of pupils could be sent on mission almost without notice had averaged \$11,000 (A/C.5/703, para. 11). It would therefore be desirable for the Secretary-General to include in the budget estimates for 1958 an appropriation to compensate the School for the losses it incurred as a result of United Nations decisions. The present location of the International School was not satisfactory, moreover, as it was housed in several buildings which had not been built for the purpose and had no laboratory, assembly hall, art and craft rooms, gymnasium, dining-room, library, staff room or administrative offices (A/C.5/703, para. 12). It was therefore urgently necessary to consider the construction of a special building for the International School where, with the addition of new classes, pupils would be able to obtain a complete secondary education. Consideration should be given to the possibility of constructing a building in the vicinity of Headquarters or on the Headquarters site with the assistance, if possible, of the various large foundations which might be interested in such an experiment in international education. Not only would that render a service to the children of international officials and of members of delegations, but it would also assist in promoting an international spirit by bringing children into contact with several different cultures. The School might give particular attention to the teaching of foreign languages and might even train future international civil servants. Furthermore, if it were located close to Headquarters, its premises might be used occasionally by international teachers' congresses or even by some United Nations bodies.

17. Mr. FORTEZA (Uruguay) thanked the Secretariat for having prepared a report on the International School despite the volume of work it was at present required to undertake. The International School urgently needed adequate premises in a suitable location. His delegation did not wish to express any particular view as regards the site of the premises, since it was for the Chairman of the School's Board of Trustees and the Secretary-General to make a specific proposal on the matter. The earlier plan for a delegation building might, however, be taken up again. As the satisfactory functioning of the International School was one of the main non-financial factors which might attract and retain international civil servants, he hoped that the Committee would approve the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.451).

18. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) thought that the International School was extremely useful, particularly as its programme was in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations, making no distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and laying the foundations of a truly international education combining the best from the different school systems of the world (A/C.5/703, para. 3). His delegation wished to make it possible for the School to operate under the best possible material conditions and would therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution.

19. Mr. NAIK (Pakistan) expressed satisfaction at the development of the United Nations International School and at the improvement in its financial situation. He wondered, however, whether it would be advisable

* Resumed from 589th meeting.

to erect a building on the Headquarters site. He would be glad if the Secretary-General could give details of the suggestions made by the Board of Trustees, because the construction of a school in the immediate proximity of the Headquarters building might disturb the work of United Nations bodies.

20. Mr. JONES (United States of America) said that he supported the draft resolution as a whole, but proposed that the word "buildings" in the first operative paragraph should be replaced by the word "accommodations".

21. Mr. Y. W. LIU (China) said that his Government had always taken a keen interest in the School and that many Chinese appreciated the opportunity to send their children to Chinese classes which were almost completely free of charge. The School was a true symbol of international understanding, and it was encouraging to note that it continued to attract wide interest in both lay and professional circles. His delegation was also glad to see that its financial position was steadily improving and was ready to support any proposal for promoting the School's development. It therefore endorsed the draft resolution.

22. Mr. ROBERTSON (Director of Personnel) said that the Secretary-General had already announced his intention of studying in detail the suggestion of the Board of Trustees (A/C.5/703, para. 15) and would therefore have no difficulty in meeting the request made in the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.451) that he should present his study to the twelfth session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General had not yet come to any conclusion concerning the location of the new school building and would take into account the views which had been expressed on the matter.

23. Almost unavoidably, the School sustained losses resulting from the fact that parents of children were transferred or sent on mission assignments at short notice, but the Secretariat would do what it could to minimize the incidence of that factor. He could, however, give no assurance to the Peruvian representative that an appropriation would be included in the 1958 budget estimate to compensate the School for such losses.

24. He was glad to see that the Chinese delegation appreciated the fact that it had been possible to hold Chinese classes. As regards the question raised by the Pakistan representative, he thought that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees was probably in a better position to supply the information requested.

25. Mr. COHEN (Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School) said that after examining a number of possibilities, the Board had reached the conclusion that the best solution would be to build a school at the north-western end of the Headquarters site. Staff members at Headquarters would thus be able to leave their children at the School on their way to work. The School would be sufficiently far from the offices and conference rooms to avoid any disturbance of the peace and quiet essential to the work of the Organization. It should be pointed out, in that connexion, that the buses bring visitors to the United Nations were already using the entrance on First Avenue, where the School would be built, and that such traffic had had no adverse effect on United Nations work.

26. The Board had asked the architects who had designed the Headquarters buildings to submit plans to the Secretary-General which would bear in mind the need for the School to harmonize with the existing buildings. The size of the new building would not be such as to enable the Board to admit all applicants, particularly if it was remembered that many parents were now sending their children to the International School at Geneva because they could not give their children a secondary education of international character in New York. The Board would keep in constant touch with the architects and with those persons or institutions which had offered their assistance in opening the main branch of the School in Manhattan. As long as the International School remained at Parkway Village, it would be impossible to continue adding a higher grade to the existing grades each year, as had been done so far. Yet it was a matter of the greatest urgency that provision should be made for a full range of primary and secondary education.

27. The Board hoped that the International School would be able to cover the deficits of the years before 1955-56 and noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat would attempt to limit the incidence of the losses caused to the school through transfers or mission assignments of parents.

28. Mr. PAREJA Y PAZ SOLDAN (Peru) thanked those members who had expressed support for the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.451). On behalf of the sponsors, he accepted the amendment proposed by the United States representative. Like the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, he felt that it would be best to build the school near Headquarters. Apart from the advantages already mentioned, such a location would enable the Secretariat and delegations to organize meetings or show films in suitable school rooms, since the School closed at 3 p.m.

29. In reply to a question by Mr. ASHA (Syria), Mr. COHEN (Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School) explained that no decision had yet been taken concerning common services (telephone, electricity, water, etc.); that point would, however, be dealt with in the study which the Secretary-General was to make. So far, the cost of those services had been exclusively borne by the School.

30. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the members of the Committee, thanked the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School for the information he had given.

The draft resolution (A/C.5/L.451), as amended, was unanimously adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 46

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (A/C.5/L.430/Rev.1) (concluded)**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.430/Rev.1)

31. Mr. FORTEZA (Uruguay), Rapporteur, introduced the Committee's draft report (A/C.5/L.430/Rev.1).

32. Mr. CHECHETKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed two amendments to paragraph 48

** Resumed from 568th meeting.

of the report. In the first place, a recommendation should be made that priority should be given to the consideration of the two questions referred to the twelfth session of the General Assembly. In the second place, the order of items (a) and (b) should be reversed.

33. Mr. NAIK (Pakistan) said that he had no objection to reversing the order of items (a) and (b). He did, however, think that it would be better to leave it to the Secretariat to prepare the agenda for the twelfth session in such a way that the items concerned could be taken up early in the session.

34. Mr. FORTEZA (Uruguay) said that he accepted the amendments proposed by the USSR representative.

35. Mr. OGISO (Japan) proposed that the words "would be 1.95 per cent", in paragraph 46, should be replaced by the words "in the neighbourhood of 1.95 per cent".

36. Mr. FORTEZA (Uruguay) accepted that amendment.

The draft report (A/C.5/L.430/Rev.1), as amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 49

Administrative and budgetary co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies: reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/C.5/L.448) (concluded)***

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.448)

The draft report (A/C.5/L.448) was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 45

Report of the Negotiating Committee for extra-budgetary funds (A/C.5/L.449) (concluded)†

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.449)

The draft report (A/C.5/L.449) was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

*** Resumed from 566th meeting.

† Resumed from 572nd meeting.