

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTIETH SESSION

Official Records



SIXTH COMMITTEE, 858th
MEETING

Friday, 22 October 1965,
at 3.25 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Abdullah EL-ERIAN
(United Arab Republic).

AGENDA ITEM 89

Technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law: report of the Special Committee on Technical Assistance to Promote the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (continued) (A/5455 and Add.1-6, A/5744 and Add.1-4, A/5790, A/5791, A/5803, chap. VII, sect. III, para. 346; A/5887; A/C.6/L.565)

1. Mr. USTOR (Hungary) recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 137 (II) and 176 (II), had at a very early stage recognized the close relationship between the purposes of the United Nations and the need to promote the dissemination of international law. Not until the seventeenth session, however, had the General Assembly, in its resolution 1816 (XVII), emphasized the importance of promoting the spread of knowledge concerning international law not merely through teaching in institutions of higher education, but as a means of strengthening international law itself and applying it to international relations. That shift in emphasis had reflected the revolutionary changes which had taken place in the world in the intervening fifteen years. Although it was still important for Member States, even the most developed and powerful, to promote public interest in international law, it had now become urgent to assist the new States of Asia and Africa, in particular, in educating present and future generations of lawyers, judges and parliamentarians in that discipline.

2. It had been a gratifying experience for his delegation to participate in the work of the Special Committee on Technical Assistance to Promote the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. As the Committee's report (A/5887) indicated, there had been general agreement on most

items discussed. However, certain differences of opinion regarding a few important aspects of the complex problem under discussion could not be reconciled. The Committee had directed its efforts towards co-ordinating the existing programmes with a view to avoiding duplication and making the most effective use of available resources. It had also sought to establish an autonomous programme for promoting appreciation of international law. In connexion with the first undertaking, it considered it essential to co-ordinate the activities of the United Nations with those of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). As for the second task, the Hungarian delegation was keenly interested in the preparation of a model curriculum which would deal with questions of international law of immediate concern to the developing countries. If UNESCO could prepare such a curriculum, it would contribute substantially towards the co-ordination of the various approaches to the teaching of international law.

3. Since the Special Committee had met during the crisis which had paralysed the work of the nineteenth session of the Assembly, it had found it easier to deal with the co-ordination of existing programmes at no additional expense to the Organization than drawing up an autonomous programme, which would inevitably incur expenditure. While the Committee had elaborated a plan for such a programme, it had not agreed on the sources to be tapped with a view to meeting its cost. Hungary could not support the suggestion that the programme should be financed by funds from the United Nations regular budget; the Organization's financial situation was critical enough without imposing a further drain on its resources. Theoretically, the programme might be financed by voluntary contributions; UNITAR was financing its operations out of voluntary funds and the sum required for the Special Committee's programme was considerably smaller than that required by the new training institute. It might also be possible to use funds from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance but, as would be seen from paragraph 346 of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/5803) both the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) and the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) felt that any allocation of funds for the Special Committee's purpose might require a change in the Expanded Programme's basic legislation and such a change had not been considered desirable by the majority of the Committee. Nevertheless, the Council's report did not preclude the possibility that the Executive Chairman of TAB might consider the Special Committee's request for assistance, at least in respect of certain costs of

the separate programme. Moreover, when presented with a practical, technical plan, TAC might also prove more amenable to financing the programme. The Hungarian delegation was confident that a satisfactory solution would be found in the interests of the peoples of the newly independent and other developing countries.

4. He noted, in passing, that a course of the United Nations Training Programme for Foreign Service Officers from the newly independent countries had been given in Budapest in August 1965 and that he, personally, had had the opportunity of explaining the work of the Legal Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the visiting students. He also noted with pleasure that the first volume of the United Nations Juridical Yearbook^{1/} with which he had collaborated, had been published and that the continuation of the undertaking was assured.

Organization of work

5. The CHAIRMAN explained the financial and practical implications of requests by representatives for the distribution as Committee documents of important statements made in the course of the deliberations; these had been the subject of consultations between the Secretary-General and the Chairmen of Main Committees. He referred more particularly to requests which had been made in the Sixth Committee for distribution of the introductory statements by the Chairman of the seventeenth session of the International Law Commission and of the

Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Technical Assistance to Promote the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. He emphasized not only the cost to the Organization (\$10.45 per page for the original and \$22.30 per page for each language version when the text of the statement was made available to the Secretariat), but the inevitable delay in the reproduction of such documents, taking into account existing secretarial facilities. In accordance with a decision of the General Assembly, the only Main Committees for which verbatim records were kept were the First Committee and the Special Political Committee. A practice had existed, however, when special interest could be attached to specific statements made in other committees, to ensure that those statements were summarized more fully in the summary records of the meetings.

6. Mr. FARTASH (Iran), having inquired whether representatives could request fuller coverage than usual in the summary records of statements they regarded of particular importance, the CHAIRMAN replied in the affirmative.

7. Mr. ROSENNE (Israel) having inquired whether the procedures outlined by the Chairman would be applicable to all Main Committees, the CHAIRMAN replied that his understanding was that it was so, except for the First Committee which was provided with verbatim services and the Special Political Committee, the debates of which were transcribed from sound recordings.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 65.V.3.