



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUYAMA (Japan)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 109 AND 110: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/38/3 (Part II), A/38/6, A/38/7, A/38/38)

International Computing Centre: 1984 budget estimates (A/C.5/38/39)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the 1984 budget estimates of the International Computing Centre, amounting to \$5,518,000, were submitted by the Secretary-General for review and approval by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedure decided upon by the Assembly in resolution 31/208, section III. The cost of the Centre's activities was shared among the various participating organizations according to an agreed formula, and the United Nations share amounted to \$1,625,537 (A/C.5/38/39, table 3). As the Secretary-General indicated in paragraph 1 of his report, the estimates in respect of the United Nations share for the usage of ICC would be met from the resources proposed for the Centre under section 28G of the proposed programme budget (\$3,372,000), which had been approved by the Advisory Committee. Consequently, the Fifth Committee could recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the 1984 budget estimates for ICC in the amount of \$5,518,000. That decision would entail no increase in the appropriation approved under section 28G.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee, acting on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, approved the budget estimates for the International Computing Centre for 1984.

3. It was so decided.

4. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if the Committee had voted on the Advisory Committee's recommendation, his delegation would have cast a negative vote because the funds required for running the Centre could be reduced through the rationalization of the Centre's work.

Revised estimates under section 28G. Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division: Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (United Nations share) (A/C.5/38/42)

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recalled that in 1981 ACC had decided that the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems should continue its activities as a clearing-house and forum for the exchange of experience, but without operational functions and without an operational secretariat (decision 1981/3). However, in its resolution 1981/63, the Economic and Social Council had endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that ACC should review its decision and had requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its first regular session of 1982, including the agreed recommendations of ACC on methods of enhancing the effectiveness of the co-ordination of the information systems in the United Nations. Pending the results of the study and the subsequent decisions of

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(Mr. Mselle)

the Council, the Secretary-General had maintained the services required for the functioning of the Inter-Organization Board in 1982. The decisions taken in 1982 and 1983 had led to the establishment of the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), as indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 1 of his report (A/C.5/38/42).

6. The programme of work of ACCIS appeared in paragraphs 3 to 19 of the report and the breakdown of the resources required to carry it out in paragraphs 20 to 27. The Advisory Committee noted that several programme elements and outputs envisaged, the ACCIS Newsletter for example, and the Directory of United Nations Information Systems and Services, were identical with those which had been included in the IOB programme, but that they had been reoriented in order better to meet the needs of Member States in conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/71. It noted further that the programme of work had been approved by ACC after an in-depth examination.

7. The Secretary-General's estimate came to \$1,306,000, which, in his opinion, did not in real terms exceed the amount approved for the biennium 1982-1983 for the former Inter-Organization Board. The United Nations share, representing approximately 43 per cent, therefore came to \$561,600, or \$288,200 in excess of the provisional amount of \$273,400 included in the proposed programme budget and approved by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 26.103 of its report (A/38/7). However, for the reasons stated in paragraph 29 of his report, the Secretary-General was not requesting any additional appropriation at present. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should approve the estimate for ACCIS for 1984-1985 in the amount of \$1,306,000, a decision which would not entail any increase in the appropriation requested under section 28G.

8. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that the failure of the former Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems appeared to be due in part to the lack of enthusiasm of the organizations concerned. ACCIS had been established to assume the essential co-ordinating role which the Board had played in the United Nations system. ACCIS deserved to be maintained on that account, but it must be wary of dispersing its efforts too widely. Otherwise, in spite of the large investment made, it might not be able to solve substantive problems. His delegation hoped that it would not become a classic example of a programme which, because it was based on a sound idea, was continued even though it was vitiated by some fundamental weaknesses. The Committee had been assured that the ACCIS secretariat would be small and that its work programme would remain modest. Although the latter should be given every assistance in its work, it must be borne in mind that only the active interest of the organizations concerned would justify the time and money devoted to them.

9. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the responsibilities of ACCIS had not been clearly defined. A number of its tasks, including the preparation of the Directory of Major Information Systems in Science and Technology, were too general in nature. In view of the abundance of documentation already available, that type of new study was of questionable

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(Mr. Khalevinsky, USSR)

utility. Also, the preparation of a brochure explaining the usefulness of indexing vocabularies was an expensive undertaking. The updating on computer of the Register of United Nations Serial Publications, appeared to be a job suited to the Library of the Organization, which had the necessary qualified personnel. The programme element relating to information systems had affinities with UNESCO's work in that field. Such examples demonstrated that economies could be made and productivity increased by a better distribution of work.

10. Mr. EL-SAFY (Egypt) expressed surprise that the estimate for ACCIS continued to be based on a zero-growth assumption, as was apparent from the first and last sentences of paragraph 1 of the Secretary-General's report, even though that assumption had been rejected by the Fifth Committee in the General Assembly. The volume of resources should be determined by the level of activities, not vice versa.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee endorsed the ACABQ recommendation in favour of approving the work programme and budget of the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems for the biennium 1984-1985.

12. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications

13. Mr. RALLIS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 10 Member States of the European Economic Community, recalled that the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had stated that the Committee would soon receive the first integrated statements of programme budget implications. It was therefore regrettable that the documents before the Committee dealt with the administrative and financial implications of various draft resolutions but not with the programme implications as well, as required by General Assembly resolution 37/234. He hoped none the less that the first integrated statements would be submitted shortly.

14. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that, in the course of the general debate on the proposed programme budget, his delegation had expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would submit to the Fifth Committee a statement of the programme implications of draft resolutions adopted by the Main Committees of the General Assembly, together with his views concerning activities which were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, with a view to the elimination or curtailing of such activities and the release of resources for the implementation of the activities provided for in those draft resolutions. He had observed with regret that the statements of administrative and financial implications before the Committee made no mention of such considerations, and he hoped that the omission was by way of an exception.

15. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) stressed the importance which his delegation attached to the submission of programme implications. Although it was willing to be flexible and patient and would not insist on their submission in the case of the three statements of administrative and financial implications before the Committee, his delegation hoped that the first statements of programme implications of draft resolutions would be issued as soon as possible.

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16. Mr. KELLER (United States of America), endorsing the comments of the three previous speakers, said that the Committee could begin by considering provisional statements of programme implications on an experimental basis. In that way, it would be able to determine the usefulness of the new procedure as the session advanced.

17. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) also looked forward to receiving the statements of programme implications of draft resolutions, which would enable the Committee to ascertain that there was no overlapping and that new activities were well co-ordinated with ongoing programmes.

18. Mr. EL-SAFTY (Egypt) said that, although it would like to have the statements of programme implications, his delegation agreed with other delegations that over-hastiness must be avoided. The Secretary-General would have difficulty in preparing that type of analysis when CPC had merely taken note, without endorsing, his report on the methods and procedures to be used and had requested the General Assembly to consider the matter. Consultations were currently being held to determine what should be included in the statements of programme implications, so that instructions could be given to the Secretariat. He hoped that the consultations would be successful and that their outcome would reflect all points of view.

19. Mr. ROY (India), endorsing the Egyptian representative's position, said that the consultations on the content of the statements of programme implications must continue. It was necessary to have an intergovernmental decision on the matter.

20. Mr. DITZ (Austria), expressing interest in the proposal of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management regarding an experimental procedure for the submission of statements of programme implications, asked whether the Secretariat intended to follow up that proposal. If the procedure was initiated, the Committee would be able to base its decision on actual experience.

21. The CHAIRMAN, replying to questions put by Mrs. de Hedervary (Belgium) and Mr. van Hellenberg Hubar (Netherlands), said that informal consultations on the question of statements of programme implications would be held on 23 November at 3 p.m. under the chairmanship of Mr. Tommo Monthe, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

22. Mr. RALLIS (Greece) requested some additional information regarding the consultations.

23. Mr. EL-SAFTY (Egypt) said it was no secret that several groups had been consulting each other about the content of the documents which the Secretariat would be required to submit. Some delegations had prepared informal working papers, which had already been distributed. His delegation had received three such papers and was ready to pass them on to interested delegations.

24. Replying to Mr. van Hellenberg Hubar (Netherlands), who, as Vice-Chairman of CPC, wished to receive copies of those papers, he said that, although his

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(Mr. El-Safty, Egypt)

delegation had not itself prepared anything, other delegations had expressed ideas in writing and would certainly be willing to communicate them to other delegations.

25. The CHAIRMAN said he was sure that the documents in question could be distributed before the consultations to be chaired by Mr. Tommo Monthe were opened. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to close the debate on that matter.

26. It was so decided.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/38/L.17 concerning agenda item 29 (The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security)

27. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), drawing the Committee's attention to paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/38/L.17, which requested the Secretary-General to continue his diplomatic efforts with a view to finding a solution to the problem of Afghanistan, observed that in document A/C.5/38/50 the Secretary-General had estimated that he would need \$110,000 to perform that task. According to the United Nations Secretariat, it was difficult to give a breakdown of the appropriation requested, which was based on the experience gained in 1983, when \$102,000 had been spent: \$39,000 on travel, \$54,000 on rental of equipment, and about \$9,000 on communications, representation expenses and so on. In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee approve the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General.

28. Mr. MASTAMAND (Afghanistan) said that his delegation had already expressed in plenary session its opposition to the inclusion in the General Assembly's agenda of an item on the situation in Afghanistan. The draft resolution in document A/38/L.17 was a manifest interference in the internal affairs of a Member State, and its adoption would be in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter. Although Afghanistan approved the efforts of the Secretary-General, it did not believe that a biased draft resolution, such as the one in question, would help him to exercise his good offices. His delegation would vote against the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution if they were put to the vote.

29. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that he hoped that the amount of \$110,000 requested under section 1 of the proposed programme budget would be made available to the Secretary-General in order to enable him to implement the provisions of draft resolution A/38/L.17.

30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/38/L.17, an amount of \$110,000 would be required under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt that proposal.

31. It was so decided.

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Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.23/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 12 (Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories) (A/C.5/38/47)

32. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) observed that in paragraph 7 of his statement of administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.23/Rev.1 (A/C.5/38/47), the Secretary-General expressed the view that if the draft was adopted, an additional appropriation of \$35,700 would be required under section 7 of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

33. The Advisory Committee had inquired about the financial operations relating to that question carried out during the biennium 1982-1983 and had learned that of the \$101,000 appropriated for that purpose \$36,000 had been committed or spent. The Secretary-General would account for the balance in his performance report. It was on that basis that he had calculated the appropriations needed for 1984.

34. He drew the Committee's attention to the revised estimates under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) (A/C.5/38/4). In paragraph 10 of that document the Secretary-General requested new posts to establish a special economic unit in implementation of UNCTAD resolution 146 (VI), on assistance to the Palestinian people. That request had already been approved by the Fifth Committee. The Advisory Committee hoped that efforts would be made to co-ordinate the activities envisaged under section 7 and those envisaged under section 15, so that the Organization's resources could be used more efficiently, thereby awaiting the need to request additional appropriations in the future.

35. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.23/Rev.1. He requested that the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution be put to a vote, and said that his delegation would vote against them.

36. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that the Committee had already approved the establishment of a special economic unit within UNCTAD together with an appropriation for that purpose. At the time of that decision, his delegation had expressed its concern over the potential for overlapping between the activities of the new unit and the Division for Palestinian Rights, which came under section 1. As the Committee was aware, the Secretary-General was also requesting \$81,000 under section 19 for the same field of activity (A/C.5/38/48). There would be no cause for complaint if the reports to be prepared would directly benefit the Palestinians, but it was more likely that the consultants and experts who would be hired to prepare the studies would be the ones to profit from them.

37. Turning to the question of statements of programme implications of draft resolutions, he pointed out that the item under consideration had provided an ideal opportunity to make a trial effort in that regard, given the potential for duplication between the special economic unit in UNCTAD (sect. 19), the Division for Palestinian Rights (sect. 1) and the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (sect. 7). Above all, a distinction should be made

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(Mr. Keller, United States)

between programmes which directly benefited those for whom they were intended and other programmes. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution that were before the Committee.

38. The CHAIRMAN proposed that on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.23/Rev.1, an additional appropriation of \$35,700 would be required under section 7 of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

39. The proposal was adopted by 78 votes to 2, with 18 abstentions.

40. Mr. RALLIS (Greece) said that his delegation had mistakenly abstained in the vote. It had intended to support the proposal.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.11 concerning agenda item 78 (h) (Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories) (A/C.5/38/48)

41. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee agreed with the figure of \$81,000 submitted by the Secretary-General in his statement of administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/38/48). The observations made earlier by the Advisory Committee concerning the co-ordination of the activities of the special economic unit in UNCTAD were highly relevant to the matter before the Committee.

42. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.11. He requested that the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution be put to a vote. His delegation, for its part, would vote against them.

43. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/38/L.11, an additional appropriation of \$81,000 would be required under section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

44. The proposal was adopted by 82 votes to 2 with 10 abstentions.

First-class travel, and organization and methods for official travel (A/38/7/Add.6; A/C.5/38/14 and 22)

45. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had nothing to add to what it had stated in its report on the two subjects under consideration (A/38/7/Add.6).

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46. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) expressed his satisfaction at the measures taken by the Secretary-General to implement the provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/241, particularly with respect to the selection of a new travel agency. He was disappointed, however, that the Committee on Contracts established for that purpose had taken a position against an in-plant arrangement, since such an arrangement would undoubtedly lead to savings.

47. It was regrettable that negotiations with airlines for discounted fares had not resulted in any reductions for the Organization, especially since it spent \$18 million each year on fares. The Secretary-General might focus his efforts on the few airlines which accounted for the bulk of travel undertaken by staff.

48. New conditions of travel had been set forth in administrative instruction ST/AI/249/Rev.1 dated 15 August 1983. They were in fact more liberal than the provisions they replaced, whereas paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 37/241 provided that the travel expenses paid by the Organization should be limited to the least costly airfare structure, taking into account the nature of the mission and the conditions of travel. The most important change affected staff members below the rank of Assistant Secretary-General, who were now entitled to business class when their flight lasted more than nine hours. Assistant Secretaries-General and Under-Secretaries-General were also entitled to business class when their flight lasted more than nine hours. Of course, they were no longer entitled to first class when travelling on home leave. The Secretary-General should not be more generous than the General Assembly itself. He should even revert to the rules previously applied.

49. On the subject of first-class travel, which was dealt with in document A/C.5/38/14, his delegation was concerned at the exceptions made by the Secretary-General in subparagraphs (i) and (j) of paragraph 3. In his view, the authorizations given in the two cases in question had been improper.

50. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) shared the concern just expressed by the United States delegation about first-class travel. He asked whether the duration of the flight between New York and Vienna and between New York and Geneva was more or less than nine hours.

51. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the journey between New York and Geneva was less than nine hours but between New York and Vienna more than nine hours. It might be useful to note that the only airline flying non-stop between New York and Geneva did not offer business class.

52. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the plenary Assembly take note of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Organization and methods for official travel" (A/C.5/38/22) and "First-class travel" (A/C.5/38/14), and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/38/7/Add.6). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted that suggestion.

53. It was so decided.

Revised estimates under section 27 - Public information: Yearbook of the United Nations (A/38/7/Add.8; A/C.5/38/38)

54. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (A/38/7), the Advisory Committee had recommended that for the time being the \$150,400 requested under section 27 (Public information) for temporary assistance required to speed up the publication of the Yearbook of the United Nations should not be approved. The Advisory Committee had recommended deletion of that amount pending the submission of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/38). The report contained additional information on the Yearbook and on the problems relating to its publication and how the Secretary-General planned to overcome those difficulties.

55. The basic problem had to do with the delay in the publication of the Yearbook. The Advisory Committee had already discussed the question and had made recommendations and observations, some of which were reproduced in its report (A/38/7/Add.8). The Advisory Committee noted that the measures taken by the Secretary-General had shown some results, particularly with regard to ensuring that the departments and services submitting texts for inclusion in the Yearbook sent them in on time. The Advisory Committee also noted that the establishment of liaison between the various departments and the Yearbook Section had greatly improved the preparation of that publication.

56. However, there was still a delay in getting out the Yearbook. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the amount of \$150,400 for the biennium 1984-1985 should be restored, with the proviso that when the Secretary-General had prepared his budget proposals for the biennium 1986-1987, he would submit to the Advisory Committee at its spring session in 1985 a report indicating specifically whether the production schedule given in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/38/38) had been adhered to. On the basis of that report, the Advisory Committee, would if necessary, submit further recommendations for or against the request for temporary assistance which it was recommending for approval at the present time.

57. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Advisory Committee, which had been dealing with the question of the Yearbook of the United Nations for a long time, had noted as early as 1976 that the delays in publication were due to the fact that the departments and services concerned were not giving the Yearbook the attention it deserved. The problem, therefore, was a matter of organization. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report, the backlog had been reduced to 14 months in 1983 through redeployment of personnel.

58. The Secretary-General proposed some advantageous solutions, in particular the suggestion that the initial drafting of articles should be done by the Yearbook Section rather than by substantive departments, which would not only make it possible to reduce the backlog but also to economize resources. Other solutions had been suggested by delegations during the first reading of section 27. His delegation thought that one of those solutions should be adopted, and was consequently not in favour of the appropriation requested for the Yearbook.

59. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) supported the request for temporary staff which would make it possible to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the Yearbook, while expressing the hope that the schedule put forward by the Secretary-General would be adhered to. It was understood that the temporary assistance would cease once the backlog had been eliminated, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report.

60. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) thought that a special effort should be made so that the Yearbook, to which Member States attached considerable importance, could come out in reasonable time. Collaboration was necessary between the services of the Department of Public Information responsible for its publication and the various substantive departments and services. As far as possible, the latter should make an effort to provide texts which could be used directly in the Yearbook. Some departments had already taken steps to that effect, and the others should follow their example. He hoped that the Advisory Committee's recommendation would make it possible to eliminate the backlog and adhere in future to the agreed publication schedule. The temporary assistance would be eliminated as soon as that aim was achieved.

61. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) had no comment to make on the Advisory Committee's recommendation but wondered whether the production schedule indicated by the Secretary-General in paragraph 10 of his report was not too ambitious. As far as lack of interest in the Yearbook was concerned, the substantive departments and services were not the only ones to blame. The Organization itself must decide whether the issuing of the Yearbook at the proper time was a priority question. In that connection, the Secretary-General might consider promoting a better understanding of its importance and giving it more publicity.

62. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) pointed out that it was not the first time that DPI had requested extra staff in order to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the Yearbook. It could not be taken for granted that the temporary staff requested by the Secretary-General would make it possible to catch up, since the temporary assistance made available since 1971 had never succeeded in doing so, although 33 work-months had been granted in 1978 and 36 in 1979.

63. The Advisory Committee's report was confined to recapitulating a number of ideas put forward in 1976 and targets which had been set at that time but never attained. The fact was that the departments and services concerned did not submit their documents in time. As was indicated in paragraph 7 of the report, the problem was not so much with the drafting of texts for the Yearbook as with the volume of documentation submitted by the departments concerned. It was therefore the presentation of the Yearbook that needed to be dealt with and not the staffing problem. Its size, almost 1,500 pages in the 1980 edition, did not make for handiness, and its prohibitive cost \$72.00, limited its circulation. A concise, better-structured and reasonably-priced volume would have a chance of being put out more quickly and being much more useful. That was what the United States Federal Government was already doing.

64. His delegation would like to be informed of the production cost of the Yearbook, the number of copies sold, the number distributed free of charge and the

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(Mr. Michalski, United States)

sales for the last five years. The Committee could then arrange for a valid analysis. The Secretary-General should therefore make a full study of the Yearbook question and report on it to the General Assembly.

65. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) considered the Yearbook of the United Nations a very valuable reference work, which saved going back to the original documents, but that did not mean that its presentation could not be improved so as to make it easier to read. Nevertheless, his delegation regretted that the Committee again had before it a request for temporary staff, which risked becoming permanent.

66. The Secretary-General should see to it that all the substantive departments sent in the texts they wanted to appear in the Yearbook within the time prescribed and that the staff assigned to the publication of the Yearbook were fully effective. His delegation was glad to see, however, that the Advisory Committee proposed to verify that the progress in making up the backlog envisaged by the Secretary-General had in fact been made.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.