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ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1296th**

**MEETING**  
*(Closing meeting)*

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**Chairman:** Mr. G. G. TCHERNOUCHTENKO  
(Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic).

AGENDA ITEM 78

Audit reports relating to expenditure by specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency:  
(a) Earmarkings and contingency authorizations from the Technical Assistance Account of the United Nations Development Programme (concluded);\*  
(b) Allocations from the Special Fund Account of the United Nations Development Programme (concluded)\*

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.985)

1. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report (A/C.5/L.985).

*The draft report was adopted.*

AGENDA ITEM 79

Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (concluded)\*\*

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.986)

2. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, said that paragraph 3 of the draft report (A/C.5/L.986) should be replaced by the following text:

"3. One delegation expressed its opposition to the draft resolution on the grounds that harmonization of the scales of assessments of the specialized agencies with that of the United Nations would not make any basic contribution to the work of those agencies. Moreover, the scales of assessments of some of those agencies were more in accordance with the capacity to pay of Member States."

3. In the beginning of paragraph 4 the words "This delegation" should be replaced by the words "One other delegation".

4. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) proposed that, as paragraphs 4 and 5 referred to the views of one

\*Resumed from the 1291st meeting.  
\*\*Resumed from the 1290th meeting.

and the same delegation, they should be combined into a single paragraph.

*The proposal was adopted.*

*The draft report (A/C.5/L.986), as amended, was adopted.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 81

Personnel questions (concluded):

- (a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (concluded);
- (b) Other personnel questions (concluded)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (concluded) (A/C.5/L.964)

5. Mr. STARK (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) thought that the points raised by the delegation of the United States of America at the 1295th meeting in regard to the last sentence of paragraph 6 of the draft report (A/C.5/L.964) could be met by bringing the text of that sentence more closely into line with the words which he himself had used in his opening statement on the composition of the Secretariat at the 1280th meeting. In that statement he had said that it might be appropriate to take some measurable step in that direction for the time being.

6. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had no objection to the proposal by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

*The proposal was adopted.*

7. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) said that if "the proposals" mentioned at the beginning of paragraph 7 referred to the proposals contained in paragraph 94 of the Secretary-General's report (A/7334), an indication to that effect should be included in the text.

*It was so decided.*

8. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) thought that the general tenor of the discussion summarized in paragraph 23 could be reflected more correctly by inserting the words "or otherwise encroach on the authority vested in the Secretary-General" at the end of the second sentence.

9. Mr. VAN GREVENYNGHE (France) said that he could not agree to the addition of those words at the end of the second sentence, which dealt solely with the views expressed by the French delegation.

10. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not think there was any need to insert the additional phrase proposed by the United Kingdom representative. Since all delegations recognized the legal prerogatives of the Secretary-General under Article 101 of the United Nations Charter and agreed that decisions taken by the General Assembly on the composition of the Secretariat should not encroach on those prerogatives, the Committee should either insert the qualifying phrase proposed by the United Kingdom representative after every sentence in the draft report or not insert it at all. The Soviet delegation preferred the second alternative.

11. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that, as the second sentence of paragraph 23 dealt with the views of a

single delegation, it would be wrong to insert the qualifying phrase proposed by the United Kingdom representative at the end of that sentence. On the other hand, as the point referred to by the United Kingdom representative had been mentioned by a number of delegations, he would like to see it reflected in a separate sentence, possibly in some other part of the report.

12. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, proposed that the point raised by the United Kingdom representative should be reflected in a separate sentence to be inserted between the second and third sentences of paragraph 23.

*It was so decided.*

13. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) proposed that the words "on a full-year basis" should be added at the end of the second sentence of paragraph 30.

*It was so decided.*

*The draft report (A/C.5/L.964), as amended, was adopted.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 75

Pattern of conferences: report of the Committee on Conferences (concluded)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (concluded) (A/C.5/L.979, A/C.5/L.987)

14. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, said that after consultations between interested delegations some changes had been agreed upon in the additional sentences (see A/C.5/L.987) proposed by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago for insertion at the beginning of paragraph 4 of the draft report (A/C.5/L.979). In the first of those sentences the words "The documentation on this item" were to be replaced by the words "The report of the Committee on Conferences". In the second sentence, the words "The Committee" were to be replaced by the words "Most of the speakers on this item". In the third sentence the words "In consequence, the Fifth Committee did not consider and debate" were to be replaced by the words "A number of delegations pointed out that the Fifth Committee had not considered and debated".

*The additional sentences proposed by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.5/L.987), as amended, were adopted.*

*The draft report (A/C.5/L.979), as amended, was adopted.*

#### AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1969 (concluded)

##### Statement by the Controller

15. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to a question asked by the representative of Hungary at the 1243rd meeting concerning United Nations claims for compensation for loss of lives and damage to United Nations property as a result of the events of June 1967 in the Middle East, said that the relevant claims were in the final stages of preparation and would be ready for presentation to the Governments concerned within

a few weeks. The presentation of the claims would be followed by negotiations with those Governments, at their request. The whole process of establishing the amount of the claims had been very time-consuming. For example, it had been necessary to reconstruct many inventories which had been destroyed during the hostilities. There had been a number of delicate legal problems and it had been necessary to co-ordinate the submission of United Nations claims with those of other bodies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. At that stage, it would not be proper for him to reveal the final amount involved, but he would be able to give full details at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

16. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) thanked the Controller for his information and said that his delegation was fully satisfied with the answer to its question.

Consideration of the draft resolutions on the budget for the financial year 1969 (A/7207/Add.1, annexes)

17. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the draft resolutions contained in annexes I, II and III of the addendum (A/7207/Add.1) to the main report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969 (A/7207/ADD.1, ANNEX 1)

18. Mr. HOFFMAN (Secretary of the Committee) said that the amount referred to in operative paragraph 4 of part A of the draft resolution was \$252,300; the amount referred to in operative paragraph 5 was \$632,700.

*Part A of the draft resolution, concerning the budget appropriations for the financial year 1969, was adopted by 55 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

*Part B of the draft resolution, concerning the income estimates for the financial year 1969, was adopted by 65 votes to none.*

*Part C of the draft resolution, concerning the financing of appropriations for the financial year 1969, was adopted by 57 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON UNFORESEEN AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969 (A/7207/ADD.1, ANNEX II)

*The draft resolution was adopted by 55 votes to 9, with 1 abstention.*

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969 (A/7207/ADD.1, ANNEX III)

*The draft resolution was adopted by 58 votes to none, with 10 abstentions.*

Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (A/C.5/L.981)

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, for technical reasons, the draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/L.981) was only available in English. Copies of the document in the other languages would be circulated later, but

he suggested that, in order to complete its work, the Committee should consider the document in English, on the understanding that in so doing, it would not be establishing a precedent.

20. Mr. BODDENS HOSANG (Netherlands) proposed that the meeting should be recessed briefly to allow the Committee to give the work of the Rapporteur the consideration it merited and to facilitate the task of those members who found some difficulty in reading English.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.*

21. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report (A/C.5/L.981). He pointed out that in the last sentence of paragraph 50 the words "and printing" should be inserted after the word "translation" and that the phrase "in respect of which translation was" should be deleted. In addition, in view of the fact that the report mentioned delegations by name when they had submitted formal proposals, in the first sentence of paragraph 144, the words "one delegation" should be replaced by the words "the delegation of Brazil".

22. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that his Government attached the utmost importance to the question of the United Nations bond issue. Unfortunately, his delegation had been unavoidably absent during the discussion of the item and, noting from the report that no statement had been made on behalf of the Advisory Committee, he asked whether it would be possible for the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to express his views on the relevant draft resolution appearing at the end of the draft report and, in particular, whether he thought it would be useful to consider a change in the terms of issue of the bonds. His own delegation was of the view that defaulting on a collective obligation of the Member States would compromise the integrity of each of the Governments.

23. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that he had not been asked to express his views on the matter during the general discussions and there was accordingly no reference to them in the report. However, as the question was an important one he would be prepared to reply to the Liberian representative after the adoption of the report if the Chairman thought it would be appropriate for him to do so.

24. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that he thought it would be out of order at that stage of the proceedings for the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to explain his position on a decision already taken by the Committee.

25. The CHAIRMAN appealed to the Liberian representative not to press for an explanation; he agreed with the Brazilian representative that to do so would be tantamount to reopening discussion on an item which had already been considered.

26. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that he felt he must press for an explanation because his Government considered it of great importance to ascertain the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the matter.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that since another delegation had raised a valid objection he would be obliged to reiterate his appeal. Delegations would, of course, still have the opportunity to express their views in the General Assembly in plenary meeting.

28. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that in the circumstances he had no alternative but to heed the Chairman's appeal. He would, however, consider it as having deprived his delegation of an opportunity to ascertain the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and he would notify his Government accordingly.

29. Mr. VAN GREVENYNGHE (France) said that paragraph 24 of the draft report failed to mention the fact that several delegations had suggested that the proposed desk-by-desk survey of the deployment and utilization of existing staff resources should be entrusted to the Joint Inspection Unit. However, paragraph 59 reflected that view and the Committee might perhaps leave it to the Rapporteur to rectify the omission in paragraph 24.

30. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, pointed out that paragraph 24 was part of the section of the draft report dealing with the views expressed during the general discussion. The comment that the desk-by-desk survey might be entrusted to the Joint Inspection Unit had been made after the general discussion, during the Committee's deliberations on staffing requirements. Accordingly, that view had been reported in paragraph 59, which was part of the section dealing with consideration of special subjects.

31. Mr. VAN GREVENYNGHE (France) replied that his delegation was completely satisfied with the Rapporteur's explanation.

32. Mr. CONNOLLY (Ireland) observed that paragraph 146 stated that the General Assembly by its resolution 1874 (S-IV) had recognized, in principle and in practice, that special criteria should be used for the apportionment among Member States of the expenditures related to major peace-keeping operations, taking into account the relatively limited capacity of economically less developed countries to contribute to them. In the general discussion, several delegations had noted that the resolution referred to special criteria for sharing the costs of future peace-keeping operations involving heavy expenditure and different methods of financing them. Their view should be reflected in the report, possibly in paragraph 148.

33. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that paragraph 146 also referred to General Assembly resolution 1739 (XVI). In fact, during the general discussion, his delegation had enumerated many other resolutions dealing with peace-keeping operations in the Congo and the Middle East, which could also be mentioned in the report. If the representative of Ireland wished to press his point, his own delegation would require more time in order to consult the Rapporteur.

34. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, suggested, in connexion with the comments of the representative of Ireland, that it might be possible to insert a sentence at the end of paragraph 148 reading as follows: "Several other delegations also pointed out

that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) referred to sharing the costs of future peace-keeping operations."

35. Mr. FREIFELD (Canada) said that the comment that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) referred to the financing of future peace-keeping operations should be included in the report. Accordingly, he endorsed the Rapporteur's suggestion.

36. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan) noted that paragraph 166 stated that the Committee had decided to defer further consideration of the definition of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses until the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, when a decision could be taken in the light of studies and information requested by delegations. The items on which studies and information had been requested were not mentioned in that paragraph, and he hoped that the records of the Committee's discussion of the relevant points would be consulted in preparing the studies and information.

37. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, said that paragraph 166 had not listed the items for which studies and information had been requested because it reproduced exactly the formal proposal submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

38. Mr. EL BARADEI (United Arab Republic) said that more than one delegation had felt that voluntary contributions to ease the financial position of the United Nations should be made especially by the countries which could best afford them. Accordingly, it would be better to change the words "one delegation" in the first sentence of paragraph 29.

39. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, agreed and suggested that the words "one delegation" should be replaced by the words "some delegations".

40. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) observed that the Committee, having had a full debate which was duly reflected in the summary records, now seemed to be embarking on another round of debate in which delegations appeared to want to rewrite history by focusing on certain problems from a new angle. He noted in that connexion that in some cases statements by the representative of the Secretary-General were given fuller treatment than those of delegations. The Committee's report should record only the facts, not opinions. If that procedure had been followed, it would have made it possible to adopt the draft report quickly at the end of the session. He hoped that early in the twenty-fourth session the Committee would give more consideration to the content of its report.

41. The words "final decision" in the last sentence of paragraph 95 gave the impression that an earlier, tentative decision had been taken. Actually, there was no obligation on the part of the United Nations as far as the proposed new construction was concerned, and he therefore suggested that the word "final" should be deleted. He noted further that paragraphs 112-118, concerning the United Nations building in Santiago, gave no indication of the views expressed by his delegation on that matter.

42. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said that the last sentence in paragraph 95 should reflect the wording actually used by the Secretary-General.

43. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that he could agree to that suggestion provided that it was made clear that the sentence referred to a statement by the Secretary-General.

44. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, said with reference to the paragraphs concerning the construction of the United Nations building in Santiago that in order to strike a better balance between the views of the Secretariat and those of delegations, a sentence should be added at the end of paragraph 115 reading: "It was pointed out that the 'economies' made at the final stage of the construction in order to remain within the budget limits were not well conceived in a number of cases and that the elimination of their effects cost more than the extra cost to finance the construction according to the plan."

45. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) thought that the report was a well-balanced one. He agreed with the Hungarian representative that at the twenty-fourth session careful consideration should be given to the question of the kind of report the Committee was to produce. Some thought should also be given to the increasing practice of introducing draft paragraphs instead of draft resolutions; the practice should be kept within reasonable bounds.

46. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America), noting that his delegation, in a desire to be accommodating, had refrained from pointing out the many instances in which its views were not reflected in the draft report, expressed regret that an attempt was being made at the last minute to insert additional material. Paragraph 148 was certainly not an adequate reflection of what had actually been said, but since his delegation's views were covered in the summary records he would not request any changes.

*The draft report (A/C.5/L.981), as amended, was adopted.*

47. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) expressed satisfaction that in adopting the draft report the Committee had endorsed his delegation's proposal (A/C.5/L.960) for a study of revenue-producing activities, as referred to in paragraph 144. He wished to thank in particular all those delegations which had explicitly supported that proposal.

#### COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

*After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared that the Committee had completed its work.*

*The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.*