

United Nations GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records



FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1131st
MEETING

Monday, 24 October 1966,
at 10.55 a.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Vahap AŞIROĞLU (Turkey).

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed the Committee's condolences to the United Kingdom delegation on the occasion of the recent tragedy in Wales.
2. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) thanked the Committee for its sympathy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A SUBMITTED BY THE THIRD COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/6483 ON AGENDA ITEM 95* (A/C.5/1067)

3. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1067), which stated that, should actual requirements not exceed those tentatively anticipated, no additional credits need be requested for the establishment of the Secretariat unit to deal exclusively with the policies of apartheid, as called for by the Third Committee in draft resolution A contained in its report (A/6483, para. 59).
4. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the Secretary-General's statement of the financial implications of the Third Committee's proposal and had no specific observations to make.
5. Mr. TOTHILL (South Africa) stated that, in view of the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Charter, which precluded United Nations intervention in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, and of the Fifth Committee's terms of reference, he would not discuss his Government's policy of separate development or the substance of the Third Committee's draft resolution. He wished, however, formally to reserve his Government's position on the proposal contained in operative paragraph 13 of that draft resolution.

*Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories.

6. Since the Third Committee had taken a policy decision—which the South African delegation had opposed—the Secretary-General had no choice but to submit an estimate of the resulting expenditure. South Africa had always taken the view that items in the United Nations regular budget should not be opposed simply because of objections to the original policy decisions or the substance of the items. So far as possible, the Fifth Committee should concentrate on the financial and administrative aspects of the budget and of the other matters referred to it. Consequently, South Africa had always taken the position that support for the Secretary-General's budget estimates did not necessarily indicate approval of the activities concerned.

7. In the case of the proposed apartheid unit, however, the South African delegation objected most strongly both to the Third Committee's decision, which it considered to be in violation of the Charter, and to the Secretary-General's estimate. Its objections to the latter stemmed directly from its objections to the former. Representatives could not expect South Africa—or, indeed, any other sovereign State Member of the Organization which might at some future date find itself the object of a hostile propaganda campaign—to approve the establishment of such a unit in what must necessarily be an impartial international Secretariat.

8. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should inform the General Assembly that it had considered the Secretary-General's statement on financial implications relating to draft resolution A submitted by the Third Committee (A/6483, para. 59) and had heard a report thereon by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In the light of the Secretary-General's stated view that at present no additional credits would be necessary for the implementation of the proposal, the Fifth Committee would inform the General Assembly that the proposal in question would have no effect on the budget estimates for 1967.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (continued)
(A/6305, A/6307, A/6385, A/6457, A/C.5/1054, A/C.5/1055 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1056 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1060, A/C.5/1062, A/C.5/1065, A/C.5/1066, A/C.5/L.868, A/C.5/L.871)

General discussion (continued)

9. Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that paragraph 21 of the main report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/6307) revealed

the varied and ever-widening range of activities in which the United Nations was engaged. The Organization's finances must keep pace with its growing activities. An appeal should therefore be made to those Member States which were in a position to make voluntary contributions to place the finances of the United Nations on a sound basis.

10. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies (A/6343) was commendable, especially as some of its recommendations for improving the layout of the budget had inspired the clear and comprehensive budget estimates for 1967 (A/6305). It was to be hoped that the experts' other recommendations, such as those in paragraph 90 of the report, would lead to the solution of vexing problems of co-ordination. However, it should be borne in mind that indiscriminate paring of meetings and conferences could measurably lessen contacts and communications between developed and under-developed countries. It was difficult to decide which conferences and meetings were superfluous or of minor importance; a list of priorities would reflect not only regional prejudices, national preferences and the degree of industrial development attained, but also ideological notions. As the Ad Hoc Committee had recommended, however, measures should be taken to reduce the volume of documentation relating to meetings and conferences.

11. His delegation would have no difficulty in voting for the various sections of the budget as revised by the Advisory Committee, but reserved its right to comment on individual items. It contemplated no further financial punitive action against the International Court of Justice. Liberia viewed with abhorrence the Court's recent verdict concerning South West Africa—a case which had cost the Liberian Government and people a large sum of money; however, it believed that a parochial approach to the Court's future value would not be consistent with its national policy.

12. He appealed to all Member States to base their decisions not on political grounds but on sound fiscal reasons. In the long run, all financial problems responded only to financial solutions. To the extent that the budget estimates for 1967 reflected the expanding responsibilities of the United Nations, each Member State should assume a share of the financial burden commensurate with its degree of economic development. Not only should technical assistance be retained as one of the major elements of the budget but its scope should be broadened, so as to promote the creation of the infra-structure so badly needed by the developing countries.

13. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon) said that having served as Secretary to the Treasury in his own country, he appreciated the predicament of a Secretariat that was called upon to accommodate an ever-expanding demand for services within a fixed volume of resources. In recent years that predicament had been compounded by new problems. The controversy that had occasioned the greatest crisis in the history of the United Nations continued to baffle the collective ingenuity of all. Yet to find a compromise while making reservations on the

principle involved should not be too exacting a test of statesmanship. At the very moment when it came of age, the United Nations should not be enfeebled by financial embarrassments. It was time for a fresh impetus, and that would only be possible if the Organization were restored to financial health.

14. During the past ten years, the budget of the United Nations had more than doubled. Over the same period the membership had increased from 80 to 121. Increase in expenditure could not, of course, be maintained in strict proportion to increase in membership, particularly since the new Members were States for which social and economic reforms were a matter of paramount importance. If the idealism that was enshrined in the United Nations Charter was to be something more than a romantic illusion, the Organization had to meet the challenge, and in order to do so it must have the assurance that its efforts would not be impeded by financial uncertainty.

15. The control of expenditure ultimately depended on the willingness of Members to curtail their demands on the Organization, and where those demands were beyond the resources that the membership was prepared to provide, a proper order of priorities had to be determined. That task devolved on the Fifth Committee which, as a Main Committee of the General Assembly, could not consider administrative and budgetary matters in isolation from their political context. Political considerations played a decisive role in determining the level of the Organization's expenditure. If the aspirations of the membership transcended its financial capacity, it must modify them without imperilling the objectives of the United Nations. But if the membership set no limit to its demands, uncontrolled expansion of expenditure was unavoidable.

16. While the Secretary-General had exercised the greatest possible restraint, he had been obliged to take into account the strongly expressed desires of the membership for the expansion of activities. His delegation did not agree with the view that expenditure must be kept below a predetermined level, but the concept of "controlled expansion" meant keeping expansion within reasonable limits. The staff of the United Nations system was growing at an alarming rate. In most organizations with large establishments there was ample scope for rationalizing the use of human resources by means of co-ordination and more effective deployment. That was a task which the Secretariat alone was equipped to undertake.

17. Both the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General had referred to the perennial problem of adequately providing for the continuously growing schedule of conferences, and the Secretary-General had again suggested (A/C.5/1065, para. 23) the creation of a sub-committee of the General Assembly with a view to effecting some reductions. Since the United Nations was still faced with the problem of an unduly ambitious conference programme, General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX) on the pattern of conferences had apparently been of little avail. Moreover, unless the expressions used in its operative paragraphs 4 and 5 were defined with greater precision, the resolution might well become a dead letter.

18. The first, and costliest, item in the programme of conferences was the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. If substantial economies were to be effected, the conference programme should be examined afresh and only those conferences selected which were truly urgent and which could reasonably be expected to yield positive results. His delegation would have suggested the exclusion of the item he had mentioned on the grounds that until the two major nuclear Powers came to some agreement, a conference involving sixteen other countries was not likely to yield positive results. His delegation was reassured, however, by the statements made in the General Assembly by the representatives of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, which held out some hope of progress.

19. His delegation believed that a different scale of assessments should be adopted for the financing of conferences which were highly specialized and whose decisions would require action by an extremely limited number within the present membership. Countries that had no armed services had no contribution to make to a conference on disarmament, while those nations which alone could help to relieve tensions by a reduction in the scale of their armaments should assume a far greater responsibility for financing such a conference.

20. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had been entrusted with a most important problem: the review of budgetary and financial procedures with a view to ensuring the most effective use of resources. While circumstances had apparently prevented as close a liaison between the Ad Hoc Committee and the Advisory Committee as had been hoped, the Ad Hoc Committee had produced a report of inestimable value. His delegation agreed with nearly all its recommendations. It agreed with the general proposition that a budget should serve to disclose not only the total programme of an organization, but also the distribution of resources for fulfilment of that programme, and endorsed the Ad Hoc Committee's views on that subject as set forth in paragraph 32 of its report (A/6343). A budget should also present a clear picture of the progress of the activities it financed. The full cost of an activity, its likely duration and the phasing of expenditure, the extent to which existing staff could be employed and additional staff was required were the important details that should be shown when an activity was first included in a budget; thereafter the progress and expenditure, past and future, should be given. New projects and activities should be shown separately from continuing ones. Such a presentation of the budget would give the controlling authority a graphic picture of the Organization's work.

21. The Main Committees exercised almost unfettered freedom to recommend decisions without regard to financial implications. That indifference, that separation of privilege from responsibility was not in the financial interests of the Organization. He firmly believed that no decision with financial implications should be taken without a report on the implications being placed before the body concerned.

22. It had been suggested that a contingency fund should be created within the budget to meet unforeseen

items of expenditure, and that at the same time further restrictions should be imposed on transfers within a section. His delegation did not consider that a satisfactory arrangement. If such a fund was substantial, it would allow a degree of discretion that might not be consistent with the controlling authority of the General Assembly; if it was not, it would serve no useful purpose. The guiding principle should be that no new policy should be undertaken and financed through transfers without prior authority.

23. His delegation had suggested to the Fifth Committee, at the twelfth session (610th meeting), the establishment of a small inspectorate, to examine the work of the various departments and study the possibility of administrative reforms. It had further suggested that, in order to avoid adding to the responsibilities of the Controller, the inspectorate should be placed under the authority of one of the under-secretaries without a department. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had also recommended the creation of an inspection unit, but it was to be a body of experts from outside the Organization. What his delegation had in mind was a group constituted from within the United Nations and functioning somewhat like the "organization and methods" divisions familiar in national administrations. Such persons were in a better position to spot the areas in which co-ordination could best be effected and staff and resources better deployed. The initiative for improvement must be generated from within.

24. In conclusion, he congratulated the Advisory Committee on its reports and expressed appreciation of the spirit of understanding which the Secretary-General had shown in regard to its recommendations.

25. Mr. AGUERO (Chile) said that the 1967 budget estimates showed a further effort by the Secretary-General to present a clear and comprehensive budget. His delegation particularly welcomed the inclusion of annex I, which gave a breakdown of expenditure by main activity and programme and which would meet the often expressed desire for a unified presentation of programme and budget, particularly in the economic, social and human rights fields. It also welcomed the fact that, as had been requested by the Committee at the twentieth session, ^{1/} the Secretary-General had not proposed any increase in the permanent staff under section 3 (Salaries and wages) or any reclassification of posts. After a careful analysis of the estimates, his delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General's description of them as conservative.

26. It was evident from its main report (A/6307) that the Advisory Committee had as usual made a very thorough study of the budget estimates. His delegation particularly supported the views expressed in paragraph 35 concerning the need to relate new substantive activities to budgetary requirements and possibilities, to establish a set of priorities and to view budgetary procedures in their proper context. It also agreed with the Advisory Committee that the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council should generally meet every two years and supported the recommendation in paragraph 68 concerning the

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 76, document A/6223, para. 27.

limitation of documentation. In general, therefore, it endorsed the Advisory Committee's report, the only point on which it was not satisfied being the reduction of \$300,000 recommended in the allocation for UNCTAD (*ibid.*, para. 342), a matter to which it would return in the debate on section 20. (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

27. Mr. BYKOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had placed the Fifth Committee in a better position to deal with the Organization's financial problems. It should stress the fact that the current difficulties were due to violations of the United Nations Charter. Illegal practices with regard to ONUC and UNEF were the reason for the deficit and there was no justification for the continuing efforts to make all countries pay for those operations. The experience of the past should be studied in order to determine how to avoid such mistakes in the future.

28. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee had expressed concern at the unchecked growth of the budget and, in its first report (A/6289), had indicated various reasons for it. In his delegation's view, the most important factors were expenditure undertaken in violation of the Charter, excessive increases in the Secretariat staff, proliferation of documentation, and duplication of work. The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations for achieving better use of resources through co-ordination and rationalization deserved serious consideration by the Committee. His delegation supported the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations as a whole, since they would strengthen Member States' control over the activities of the United Nations system. He was confident that the recommendations would not remain a dead letter, but that practical steps would be taken by the Secretariat to put them into effect. It was equally important to improve the administrative practices of the United Nations system. The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations on the subject were praiseworthy, but it had made no suggestions on ways of improving the structure of the United Nations budget or rationalizing it in such a way as to avoid superfluous expenditure and relate needs to Members' capacity to pay. In particular, it had made no specific proposals regarding the division of the budget into administrative and operational parts, the elimination of expenditure which did not belong in the budget and several other important matters. The Fifth Committee must therefore strive to work out a rational budget system.

29. The situation with regard to the regular budget caused his delegation serious concern. It was in no way satisfied with the 1967 budget estimates, which had been prepared without any regard for the expressions of disquiet at the twentieth session over excessive growth. The budget had risen yet again, although that did not necessarily reflect any useful expansion of activities. The process could not be allowed to continue indefinitely. The budget must be planned in such a way that while important programmes and the normal work of the Secretariat were not interfered with, all the activities of the United Nations were conducted more efficiently and at less cost. That could be achieved, for instance, by abolishing organs established in violation of the Charter, such as the United

Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine and the United Nations Field Service. Appropriations for the United Nations bond issue should also be terminated, since the issue had no legal standing. No provision should be made for the regular programme of technical assistance, but all technical assistance activities should be financed on a voluntary basis outside the budget. His Government would, as in the past, contribute to the regular programme in roubles. It noted with regret that practically no use had been made of its previous contributions, although they could have afforded considerable aid to the developing countries. Under General Assembly resolution 2118 (XX) the Secretary-General was authorized to receive contributions from Member States in currencies other than United States dollars and his Government was willing to co-operate with the Secretariat in ensuring that practical use was made of the Ukraine's accumulated contributions.

30. His delegation could not support the allocation requested for temporary staff recruiting which was a roundabout way of increasing the staff and was contrary to the wishes expressed in the Committee at the twentieth session. The Advisory Committee had rightly drawn attention to the need for greater control of expenditure on temporary personnel and for the adoption of more specific rules in that connexion. Again, although the General Assembly had repeatedly called for economies to be made in the allocations for meetings of United Nations organs, the situation remained clearly unsatisfactory. An excessive amount was also spent on documentation; in 1965 it had totalled more than the allocation for the regular programme of technical assistance. The Ad Hoc Committee referred to the desirability of reducing documentation and planning the conference programme more carefully. But recommendations were not enough; action must be taken. In his delegation's view, the most effective step would be to set a limit on expenditure. The Fifth Committee had successfully set such a limit in 1965 on expenditure under section 3 (Salaries and wages). The work of the Secretariat had not deteriorated as a result and there were still many vacancies. The Committee might now set a two-year limit on the allocations for meetings and documents.

31. The estimate for public information activities for 1967 came to over \$6.5 million, or half as much again as that for meetings. It was high time the Office of Public Information became a more useful and less expensive body. After reviewing the work of the Office, the Committee of Experts on United Nations Public Information established under General Assembly resolution 1177 (XII) had said in its report,^{2/} *inter alia*, that it was not incumbent on the Office to address the peoples of the world directly through the media of mass communication, but that it ought to work through the Governments of Member States and selected groups and organizations. On the basis of that Committee's report, the General Assembly had adopted resolutions 1335 (XIII) and 1405 (XIV) on the limitation of expenditure on public information activities, but unfortunately the Committees

^{2/} *Ibid.*, Thirteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 55, document A/3928, paras. 217 and 226.

recommendations had subsequently been disregarded. As a result, the Office's expenditure continued to rise, although its work did not improve. Many examples could be given of incompleteness and one-sidedness in the information it provided on United Nations activities. It was adapted to serve the interests of the United States, so that not only the socialist countries, but many others, were ignored. For example, in 1965, 203 non-governmental organizations had been involved in its work, 201 of which were United States organizations and 2 Canadian. The Non-Governmental Organizations Section in the Office of Public Information was staffed by four United States nationals and in effect was a section of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations, paid for out of United Nations funds. The 1967 estimates showed that the Office of Public Information was still trying to duplicate national communications systems by establishing a network of its own. Apart from the cost, that was neither feasible nor desirable. The Office should abandon its present policy and return to the approach laid down at the first session—as stated in General Assembly resolution 13 (I), annex I—i.e., it should not try to carry out specific information functions, leaving that to national services, but should direct and oversee the whole combination of local information activities.

32. His delegation understood the difficulties encountered by the Secretary-General in preparing the 1967 estimates, but considered that the policy of rationalization and economy must be pursued unswervingly. It hoped that the Secretariat would take steps to remove the remaining shortcomings in the Organization's financial affairs and create the necessary conditions for the proper discharge of the duties entrusted to it by the Charter and by decisions of United Nations bodies.

33. Mr. MOEBIUS (Austria) remarked that the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had given new hope that the United Nations could be made financially sound and capable of realizing the objectives of the Charter. The results of the Ad Hoc Committee's work showed it to have been one of the most constructive bodies ever established by the General Assembly. In its first report (A/6289 and Add.1 and 2), the Ad Hoc Committee had succeeded in evaluating the short-term and long-term obligations of the United Nations, despite the fact that differences of opinion still existed among Member States and that as a result the over-all financial problem remained unsolved. As regards the second part of the Ad Hoc Committee's work, his delegation was generally in agreement with the recommendations contained in its second report (A/6343), and particularly with chapter VIII on co-ordination and chapter IX on conferences, meetings and documentation. The lack of co-ordination between the United Nations and the various agencies was a matter of growing concern to his delegation. The causes, however, lay to some extent with Governments. Member States should look into their systems of inter-departmental co-ordination in order to ensure uniform action by representatives of different ministries in various United Nations organs. The Ad Hoc Committee's suggestion (*ibid*, para. 90, sub-para. (g) and (h)) for a new committee of independent experts

to deal with such matters deserved careful study, assuming that the existing co-ordinating machinery was inadequate. The proliferation of conferences and meetings deserved the most serious consideration. The main responsibility, however, again lay with Member States, on which the many appeals made by the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General had had little impact in the past. In paragraph 103 of its second report, the Ad Hoc Committee noted that adequate restraint did not appear to have been exercised in the programme scheduled for 1967 and said that Member Governments would have to face up to the problem or accept the burden of major additional expenditures. It made a number of recommendations in that connexion, of which the guidelines for planning conferences set forth in paragraph 104, sub-paragraph (k), were of particular interest. Experience showed that mere appeals did not lead to any change and his delegation therefore agreed with the Canadian delegation that the Fifth Committee should recommend practical measures to the General Assembly and that it should study the problems in question thoroughly under the appropriate items of the agenda.

34. The increase in the 1967 budget estimates over those for 1966 was acceptable to his delegation. Unfortunately, a substantial part of that increase was intended to cover rising costs, thus absorbing funds that could otherwise be used for programmes and activities to benefit Member States. For various reasons, purely administrative costs had risen steadily, leaving less and less room for expansion to meet the requirements of the United Nations in discharging the manifold tasks it had assumed in recent years. While little could be done about rising costs, all efforts should be directed towards those fields where reductions could be made without threatening healthy growth. Member States could help by adopting a more rational approach and the secretariats of the various organizations could improve their methods in order to keep their staff to the absolute minimum.

35. In the prevailing circumstances, the Secretary-General had had little opportunity for presenting a more forward-looking budget. His delegation was confident, however, that the budget estimates for the financial year 1968 would reflect at least some of the ideas which had already been expressed or which would emerge during the coming weeks. More and more activities were being financed outside the regular budget, thereby adding to Member States' total financial obligations and increasing the problem of co-ordination and control over programming and spending. It would therefore be worth while to explore the possibility of integrating at least some of those activities into the regular budget.

36. His delegation in the main supported the Secretary-General's proposals and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, but reserved its right to speak again on particular sections and chapters of the budget estimates.

37. Mr. ILIC (Yugoslavia), noting that the documentation before the Committee was more voluminous than ever before, expressed appreciation that everything had been done to facilitate the Committee's work.

38. Its increased membership and the urgent necessity to solve the problems of the developing countries had given rise to a new understanding of the purposes of the Organization. Far-reaching changes were taking place throughout the United Nations system; many new programmes had been initiated, and much new machinery was being set in motion. Those changes were naturally reflected in increased expenditure. In the past five years alone, the budget had increased by \$50.4 million, and the estimates for 1967 anticipated a further increase of \$6.7 million.

39. The development had been dynamic; but the time had come for a thorough analysis of all the causes of the constant rise in expenditure. Since it was clear that the United Nations had no choice but to go on expanding its activities, the question was how it should proceed. The answer lay in part in the recommendations submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts. It also lay in further measures of economy, stricter control and, most important, decentralization. The measures undertaken during past years could not be effective unless the process of decentralization was carried further. The question was, however, whether every newly established body should entail recruitment of new staff. That had been the practice in the past, with the result that there was now a vast administrative machinery in existence.

40. His delegation's view on the size and costliness of the administration was borne out by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, which had noted that section 3 of the budget (Salaries and wages) represented by far the largest single area of expenditure. A comparison of the 1954 and 1966 appropriations under that section showed an increase of over \$31 million. His delegation had always supported the justified demands of the staff. But numbers did not necessarily imply efficiency. It was in the nature of every administration to expand, but when an administrative apparatus became cumbersome it became an obstacle to efficiency. He regretted that the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had not explored that question more thoroughly. All that Member States could insist on was that the administrative machinery should be efficient, and be prepared to pay for it. Employment with the Secretariat should of course be made attractive from the standpoint of remuneration.

41. The other factor causing increased outlays was the number of meetings and conferences, which the Secretary-General had described in 1965^{3/} as having reached unmanageable proportions. The situation had not improved since then. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts showed that the number of meetings held at Headquarters and Geneva had doubled between 1954 and 1966. It was becoming more and more evident that drastic measures must be taken if the convening of meetings and conferences was not to become an end in itself; he hoped that the recom-

mendations of the Ad Hoc Committee would lead to such action. Nothing could be achieved without a well-planned calendar of conferences, coupled with an established programme of priorities. His delegation was not opposed to meetings and conferences, nor did it wish, by reducing their number, to curb the Organization's activities. On the contrary, it hoped that the introduction of greater order and more precise schedules would serve to expand those activities and to make the meetings more effective.

42. The third factor was the number of documents. The vast documentation prepared for every meeting and conference and the ever-increasing demand for new reports and studies constituted a problem of exceptional importance. Despite the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 1272 (XIII) on the control and limitation of documentation, the documentation furnished for the 1965 summer session of the Economic and Social Council, for example, had amounted to 11,000 pages, and had cost the United Nations close to \$500,000 for translation alone.

43. In such a situation, the responsibility of the Advisory Committee was very important, and its authority must be strengthened. That could be achieved only if delegations consistently supported its policies in every organ. He hoped that the proposed establishment of an inspection unit would contribute to that end.

44. The budget estimates for 1967 exceeded the 1966 budget by over \$6 million. Nevertheless, his delegation was prepared to support the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee. In so doing, it was motivated by the desire to further the economic and social activities of the Organization, a major factor in the increased expenditure for 1967, and in particular to give full support to UNCTAD and UNOID.

45. The Secretary-General had suggested that the limit imposed on the public information activities of the United Nations should be less stringent. When the Committee had discussed the question during the fifteenth session his delegation had argued (780th meeting) against the establishment of a financial ceiling. It still maintained that view and was ready to support every effort to give the office of Public Information the necessary funds. The world should be informed of the activities of the United Nations in order to demonstrate that, despite its weaknesses, the United Nations was an indispensable instrument for the maintenance of peace and the creation of better mutual understanding.

46. His delegation welcomed the new presentation of the budget, in particular annex I, and hoped that it would be continued. That was the first step towards the establishment of common standards for budget presentation.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

^{3/} Ibid., Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 5, foreword, para. 26.