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MEETING**

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 77:</i>	
<i>Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (continued).</i>	157
<i>Agenda item 76:</i>	
<i>Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):</i>	
<i>(a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions</i>	158
<i>Agenda item 74:</i>	
<i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (continued)</i>	
<i>First reading (continued)</i>	
<i>Section 1. Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies (continued)</i>	
<i>Payment of honoraria to the members of the International Narcotics Control Board (continued)</i>	158

Chairman: Mr. Harry MORRIS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEM 77

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (continued) (A/6710 and Add.1)

1. Mr. URABE (Japan) explained that, at the 1198th meeting, he had abstained from voting on the amendments submitted by Argentina, Kuwait, Singapore and Spain (A/C.5/L.911 and Add.1) to the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Contributions (see A/6710, para. 36) because of the assurance that that Committee would consider the possibility of placing a limit on the amount by which a Member State's assessment could be increased over a certain period of time. He thought that that limit should be 20 per cent over a period of three years. He had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution itself.

2. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico) said his delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution to show its disagreement with a reapportionment which reduced the assessments of some of the richer countries and increased, or at best only slightly reduced, those of many developing countries. However, his delegation's abstention had not been intended as a criticism of the way in which the Committee on Contributions had carried out its complicated task, but rather as an indication that that Committee's

terms of reference should be re-examined in order to prevent a recurrence of such anomalies.

3. Mr. PILLADO SALAS (Argentina) said his delegation had voted against the draft resolution recommended by the Committee on Contributions because it considered that Member States' capacity to pay and ability to secure foreign currency had not been duly taken into account in the calculation of the new scale of assessments, some of which had been increased without justification. Although per capita income was a useful index for purposes of comparison, it was not the only one and General Assembly resolution 14 A (I) rightly placed most emphasis on capacity to pay and ability to secure foreign currency. His delegation's vote constituted a criticism, not of the members of the Committee on Contributions, but of the incorrect method used to calculate the assessments. It was regrettable that the assessments of developing countries could not be reduced largely because the reductions available had been distributed among the developed countries. His delegation believed that Argentina's assessment should be reduced to 0.86 per cent in view of the difficulties arising out of its international commitments and the abnormal conditions affecting its foreign trade. He asked that his country's position be considered at the next session of the Committee on Contributions.

4. Mr. SALEEM (Iraq) said his delegation had supported the draft resolution, but had abstained in the vote on the amendments. He shared the view expressed by several delegations that the Committee on Contributions should consult any States whose assessments were to be increased by an unusually large amount, so as to ensure that the increase was based on accurate information. He agreed with the representative of Mexico that it was advisable to review the terms of reference and directives given to the Committee on Contributions by the General Assembly over the past twenty years, in view of the number of developing countries with meagre resources admitted to the United Nations during that period. The minimum rate of assessment of 0.04 per cent established in 1958 should also be kept under review in the interests of the developing countries. In the assessment of contributions the prime consideration should be capacity to pay and not reduction in the developed countries' contributions.

5. Mr. ABDULDJALIL (Indonesia) said his delegation shared the sentiments which had prompted the amendments and believed that, if the regular budget continued to grow as it had done in recent years, the developing countries would find it increasingly difficult to pay the contributions required by the scale of assessments. It had nevertheless been unable to support the amendments as their adoption would have

created a precedent which could cause difficulties in the future.

6. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said his delegation's vote in favour of the proposed scale of assessments had been essentially a reaffirmation of confidence in the Committee on Contributions. He had been glad to note the statement of the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions at the 1198th meeting that, if genuine errors or inequities came to light in the scale of assessments, the Committee on Contributions would consider any additional information submitted to it.

7. Mr. BAGBENI (Democratic Republic of the Congo) explained that his delegation had abstained in the vote on the amendments because their adoption would have meant that the scale of assessments would be based on an annual review of per capita national income and capacity to pay. Those criteria were at present derived from national accounts statistics covering a three-year period and it was essential for the Committee on Contributions to have sufficient time for a thorough study when drawing up the scale of assessments.

AGENDA ITEM 76

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued):*

(g) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/6681, A/C.5/1120)

8. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed with an election to fill four posts that would become vacant in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, when the terms of office of Mr. Corrêa, Mr. Riad, Mr. Sanu and Mr. Serbanescu expired on 31 December 1967. As indicated in the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1120), those four persons had been proposed for re-election, and Mr. Saleem had been proposed for election. The members were free to vote for whomsoever they wished, whether or not their names had been formally proposed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Tardos (Hungary) and Mr. Tan (Singapore) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	106
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	2
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	104
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	104
<i>Required majority:</i>	53

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Dragos Serbanescu (Romania)	81
Mr. E. Olu Sanu (Nigeria)	77
Mr. Paulo Lopes Corrêa (Brazil)	75
Mr. Mohamed Riad (United Arab Republic)	71
Mr. Salim Saleem (Iraq)	61

Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Serbanescu (Romania), Mr. Sanu (Nigeria), Mr. Corrêa (Brazil) and Mr. Riad (United Arab Republic) were recommended by the Committee for appointment as

*Resumed from the 1191st meeting.

members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1968.

9. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the members of the Committee had had to perform a difficult task which involved the need to look not only for experience and past service, but also for fresh points of view. He congratulated Mr. Corrêa, Mr. Riad, Mr. Sanu and Mr. Serbanescu upon their re-election.

10. Mr. SERBANESCU (Romania) and Mr. SANU (Nigeria) thanked the Committee for re-electing them to the Advisory Committee.

11. Mr. EL BARADEI (United Arab Republic) thanked the Committee on behalf of Mr. Riad.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (continued)* (A/6705 and Corr.1, A/6707 and Corr.1 and 2, A/6854, A/6861, A/6878, A/C.5/1113 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1114 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1115 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1118, A/C.5/1123 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1124, A/C.5/1126-1129, A/C.5/1132, A/C.5/1135, A/C.5/L.901, A/C.5/L.908 and Corr.1)

First reading (continued)** (A/C.5/L.908 and Corr.1)

SECTION 1. TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (continued)** (A/6705 AND CORR.1, A/6707 AND CORR.1 AND 2, A/6854, A/6878, A/C.5/1114 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/1123 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/1124)

PAYMENT OF HONORARIA TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (continued)** (A/6878, A/C.5/1123 AND CORR.1)

12. The CHAIRMAN, referring to his statement at the 1191st meeting on the question of the payment of honoraria to the members of the International Narcotics Control Board, invited the Committee to consider the proposals of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1123 and Corr.1) and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/6878).

13. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) observed that the members of the new International Narcotics Control Board were to receive "an adequate remuneration as determined by the General Assembly" (see A/C.5/1123 and Corr.1, annex I). Normally, members serving on organs and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations in an individual, personal capacity were not paid fees of any kind. However, the payment of honoraria to the members of the International Narcotics Control Board was provided for in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.^{1/}

*Resumed from the 1197th meeting.

**Resumed from the 1191st meeting.

^{1/} United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520 (1964), No. 7515, p. 204.

14. The Secretary-General proposed the payment of \$2,500 per annum to the President of the Control Board, \$1,500 to the Vice-President and \$1,000 to the other members. The Advisory Committee had been aware that the proposed honoraria were higher than those paid to members of the Control Board's predecessors, but it had realized that, because of the increased consumption of dangerous drugs, the responsibilities of the Board were growing; that the time members devoted to the work of the Board was likely to increase; and that the fees which members received outside the sphere of international service would be much higher. The Advisory Committee had also borne in mind the provision of article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, concerning other work in which members could engage.

15. On the basis of those considerations the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General's proposal should be approved and that an additional provision of \$13,500 should be included for 1968 and future years under section 1 of the budget estimates.

16. Lastly, he drew attention to paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/6878), which stated the view that it would be premature for the General Assembly at the current session to take an initiative in the broader question of honoraria in the absence of any indication, based on a comprehensive review by the Secretary-General, that further consideration was warranted.

17. Mr. GANEM (France) believed that the Secretary-General's proposal, which would more than double the honoraria paid to the officers and members in question, was over-generous. He himself would have agreed, as a compromise, to an honorarium of \$2,000 for the President of the Control Board. His attitude was based not on a desire for austerity but on the long-standing United Nations principle that election as an officer of a subsidiary organ was an honour

conferred and not an appointment to a remunerative post. He realized that the requested provision was not to be put to a formal separate vote. If it were, he would have abstained.

18. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it decide that honoraria should be paid to officers and members of the International Narcotics Control Board on the following basis: \$2,500 to the President of the Board, \$1,500 to the Vice-President(s) and \$1,000 to other members, and that those payments should, in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly during its twelfth session, at the 729th plenary meeting,^{2/} be payable in the form of an annual lump sum for any year during which the recipients attended the meetings of the Board.

It was so decided.

19. Mr. TURNER (Controller), referring to paragraph 13 of the Advisory Committee's report, observed that, in the Secretary-General's view, the general matter of honoraria could usefully be reviewed from time to time, in the light of changing conditions and circumstances. If there was no objection on the part of the Fifth Committee, the Secretary-General would undertake a review of the matter in the course of 1968.

20. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) agreed with the Advisory Committee that any further consideration of the general matter of honoraria would depend on the results of a comprehensive review undertaken, since the policy and arrangements relating to honoraria were highly complex.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Annexes, agenda item 41, document A/3766, para. 6 (d).