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Chairman: Mr. Max H. WERSHOF (Canada).

AGENDA ITEM 73

Budget estimates for the financial year 1971
(continued) (A/7822, A/7937, A/7968, A/7987 and
Add.1, A/8006, A/8008 and Add.1, A/8032,
A/8033, A/8072, A/8122, A/C.5/1296, A/C.5/
1298, A/C.5/1302 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1303,
A/C.5/1307, A/C.5/1309, A/C.5/1310, A/C.5/
L.1041, A/C.5/L.1042)

First reading (continued) (A/C.5/L.1041)

SECTION 12. SPECIAL EXPENSES
(A/8006, A/8008)

1. The CHAIRMAN stated that the Secretary-General was requesting, in the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8006), an appropriation of \$9,670,800 under section 12. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its related report (A/8008, paragraph 267), recommended a reduction of \$15,000 in that amount. The Committee would note that the estimate for chapter V, for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, was of a provisional nature, and any change in that amount as a result of future General Assembly action would be reflected in a revised estimate to be submitted by the Secretary-General towards the end of the session. The Committee was now asked to vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$9,655,800 under section 12.
2. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the major increase, as compared with the appropriation for 1970, occurred in chapter II for the United Nations International School in New York. The appropriation requested included the initial contribution of \$500,000 to the Development Fund of the School, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2612 (XXIV). It also made provision for a grant towards the operating deficit of the School. Bearing in mind the General Assembly's view, as expressed in resolution 2612 (XXIV), that the grant be phased out, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$15,000 under that chapter.
3. Believing that there was room for other economies in section 12, the Advisory Committee urged that possibilities for such savings should be carefully explored, particularly in chapters I (United Nations Memorial

Cemetery in Korea), IV (Triangular Fellowship Programme (Office of Public Information)) and VIII (United Nations participation in the costs of the Secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund). Subject to that observation, the Advisory Committee recommended an estimate of \$9,655,800 under that section.

4. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) recalled the long-standing position of his delegation with regard to the appropriation requested under chapter III to cover the payment of interest charges and the instalments on the principal due on the bonds issued by the United Nations. The figure for the financial year 1971 amounted to \$8,556,200. Since the proceeds of the sales of the bonds were entirely utilized for financing the peace-keeping operations in the Congo and Middle East, and it had been recognized in principle and in practice that expenditures caused by such operations should be met according to a procedure and on a basis different from that applied to the regular budget and granting more favourable treatment to the developing countries, the financing of the expenditure in respect of the bonds should follow the criteria governing the financing of peace-keeping operations and not those governing the financing of expenditure under the regular budget. His delegation would therefore vote against the appropriation under chapter III, and requested that it be put to the vote separately.
5. With regard to the appropriation requested under chapter VI (United Nations Participation in the Joint Inspection Unit), he noted that in paragraph 264 of the Advisory Committee's report it was stated that the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions would be reviewing the basis of apportionment of Unit costs among participating organizations and that that might lead to a recommendation for a change in the amount due from the United Nations in 1971. He asked whether the review in question had been made, and if so, what conclusions it had led to.
6. Mr. TURNER (Controller) replied that the matter had not yet been considered but, in any event, he did not think that any adjustments that might be recommended would have any effect on the amount due from the United Nations for the coming financial year; any changes could only be minimal.
7. Mr. MARRON (Spain), referring to the appropriation requested for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, welcomed the fact that negotiations with a new contractor were under way in an effort to reduce the cemetery maintenance costs. He nevertheless found it surprising that, whereas the estimated rise

in maintenance costs in 1971 was due to the increase in labour rates decreed by the Korean Government, the estimate for the salaries and common staff costs of locally recruited employees was little higher than the fund allocated for that purpose for the current financial year.

8. Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said that, in accordance with his Government's position regarding costs relating to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, he would vote against the appropriation requested if it were put to the vote separately.

9. Mr. BERREZOU (Algeria) said that, in view of his Government's reservations concerning the expenditure proposed in chapter I, and in keeping with his delegation's traditional position on the matter, he would vote against the appropriation requested in that chapter if it were put to the vote separately.

10. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that his delegation had consistently opposed the inclusion in the United Nations regular budget of payments for interest charges on the repayment of annual instalments on principal of United Nations bonds. The proceeds from the sale of those bonds had been used for expenditure incurred for peace-keeping operations in the Congo and the Middle East. But all measures pertaining to the maintenance of peace were, under the Charter, the exclusive responsibility of the Security Council. Since the ONUC and UNEF operations had been undertaken in defiance of the principles of the Charter, the expenditures incurred in connexion with them were illegal and there was consequently no obligation incumbent on States to contribute to their financing.

11. The expenditures proposed in chapter I, for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, also were illegal and should cease to be included in the regular budget.

12. In the light of the foregoing observations, his delegation would vote against the request for funds made in section 12.

13. Mr. ASHWIN (Australia) said it was surprising that the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should describe as "illegal" expenditures relating to the maintenance of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea. Those expenditures were in no way illegal since the General Assembly, in resolution 977 (X), which had been adopted without opposition at a meeting at which the USSR delegation had been present, had authorized the Secretary-General to make provision in the budget of the United Nations for the allocation of the necessary funds for the establishment and permanent maintenance of the Cemetery. There had thus been a decision of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General was merely implementing that decision. The only question which might arise in connexion with the Cemetery was that of the total amount involved in maintaining it, which should obviously be kept as low as possible. In that connexion, the current negotiations aimed at

reducing maintenance costs could only be welcomed. He asked why it had been considered necessary to make three administrative and technical services personnel responsible for the management of the Cemetery, and whether it would be possible to assign that responsibility to locally recruited employees, thereby reducing costs considerably.

14. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) replied that it had been found that the field operations personnel, which was familiar with the problems and had the necessary linguistic knowledge, was in a better position than the local employees properly to manage the Cemetery; he explained in that connexion that the administrative and technical services personnel assigned to that task was rotated.

15. Mr. LAWRENCE (United States of America) associated himself with the comments of the Australian representative, who had rightly stressed that the legality of the expenditures relating to the Cemetery could not be challenged, since the General Assembly had expressly authorized the inclusion in the United Nations budget of the necessary funds for that purpose. The Organization had contracted an obligation for the maintenance and custodianship of the Cemetery that it was duty bound to honour. The Charter did not deal with the Cemetery; nothing reserved such activities to the Security Council.

16. Mr. LENG SARIN (Cambodia) felt that the Organization should ensure the proper maintenance of the Cemetery, which had been established to honour people of all nationalities who had died in Korea in the service of the United Nations.

17. Mr. KEENLEYSIDE (Canada) said that his country was particularly anxious to see the Cemetery properly maintained, since many Canadians who had died in the service of the United Nations were buried there. He also wished to associate himself with the pertinent comments of the Australian representative concerning the legality of the expenditure relating to the maintenance of the Cemetery. The Secretariat was carrying out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly, and it was doing it admirably, as he had been able to see for himself in Korea when he visited the Cemetery.

18. Mr. AL-MASRI (Syria) said that his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested in chapter I and proposed that the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning that chapter should be put to the vote separately.

19. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) stated that, in accordance with its position of principle concerning the expenditure under chapter I, his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested in that chapter.

20. Mr. SLIWKA (Poland) said that he would not repeat the reasons why his delegation was against the inclusion in the regular budget of the expenditures in chapters I and III of section 12; they had already been

stated by the representative of Poland in his statement during the general discussion (1358th meeting): in view of that position, his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested in section 12.

21. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) said that the position of his delegation concerning the inclusion in the regular budget of the expenditures relating to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea remained unchanged; his delegation was opposed to those expenditures and would vote against the appropriation requested to cover them.

22. Mr. CHISUNKA (Zambia) said that his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested in chapter I.

23. Mr. DAO (Mali) said that, in view of his Government's position concerning the expenditures in chapter I of section 12, he would vote against the appropriation requested in that chapter.

24. Mr. KABORE (Upper Volta) said he would vote against the appropriation requested in chapter I.

25. Mr. BARTUŠEK (Czechoslovakia) said that, because of its serious reservations concerning the expenditures in chapters I and III of section 12, his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested under that section.

26. Mr. McGOUGH (Argentina) wished to know how many people visited the Cemetery; such information would enable the Committee better to judge whether the presence of three administrative and technical services personnel was necessary for the management of the Cemetery.

27. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) replied that, in 1969, the Cemetery had had 88,238 visitors, including 244 prominent visitors and 5,496 visitors from other countries.

28. Mr. SUAREZ (Cuba) said that his delegation would vote against the appropriations requested in chapters I and III.

29. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee, as requested by the Syrian delegation, to vote separately on the Advisory Committee's recommendation that \$101,200 should be appropriated under chapter I of section 12.

At the request of the representative of Iraq, the vote was taken by roll-call.

The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic

of), Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Guyana, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey.

Against: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Guinea, Hungary, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Syria.

Abstaining: United Republic of Tanzania, Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation in the amount of \$101,200 under chapter I of section 12 was approved in first reading by 43 votes to 21, with 13 abstentions.

30. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee, as requested by the Brazilian delegation, to take a separate vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation that \$8,556,200 should be appropriated under chapter III of section 12.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation in the amount of \$8,556,200 under chapter III of section 12 was approved in first reading by 56 votes to 15, with 7 abstentions.

31. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation that a total of \$9,655,800 should be appropriated under section 12.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/8008, para. 267) for a total appropriation in the amount of \$9,655,800 under section 12 was approved in first reading by 61 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions.

32. Mr. STEWARD (South Africa) said that his delegation had voted against chapter III of section 12 and had abstained on the section as a whole because of its opposition in particular to the payment out of the regular budget of interest and instalments due on United Nations bonds. His delegation's views on that question were well known.

33. Mr. ABARA (Nigeria) said he had voted against the appropriation requested under chapter III because he felt that the funds needed to cover the expenditure relating to the bonds should come from contributions calculated according to a different scale of assessments than that used for contributions to the regular budget which, for purposes of calculating the amounts in question, was unfair to the developing countries.

34. Mr. McGOUGH (Argentina) said he had abstained in the vote on the estimates for the whole of section 12, since he had voted against the chapter III

estimates; his delegation felt that the expenditures in that chapter should be apportioned according to a different scale of assessments than that used for the regular budget.

35. Mr. PARDO (Malta) said he had voted for the appropriations requested under chapters I and III of section 12, but had abstained from voting on the estimates for the whole section, since his delegation considered that the estimates in chapters II, IV, V and VI were excessive and could be reduced.

36. Mr. KITI (Kenya) said he had abstained in the vote on the chapter III expenditure since, in his view, it was unfair and illogical to use the same scale of assessments in apportioning contributions to the regular budget and funds to cover payments on the bonds. It was high time to revise the scale used for expenditures on the bonds.

37. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that if his delegation had been present during the voting on chapter III, it would have abstained. In its view, expenditure for bond payments should be apportioned according to a different scale of assessments than that used for the regular budget.

38. Mr. YOGASUNDRAM (Ceylon) said he had voted in favour of the appropriation under chapter I because he felt that it was the duty of the United Nations to honour its commitment to maintain the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea.

SECTION 10. GENERAL EXPENSES (*continued*) (A/8006, A/8008, A/C.5/L.1042)

39. The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of Malta to introduce his delegation's proposal for a reduction in the estimates for section 10, which had been circulated as document A/C.5/L.1042.

40. Mr. PARDO (Malta) expressed his regret at the position taken by the Controller at the previous meeting, and reiterated that his proposal should not be interpreted as a criticism of the work of the Budget Division or of any United Nations body. Section 10 was one of the few sections in the budget where reductions in expenditures additional to those recommended by the Advisory Committee were both possible and desirable. Although he did not question the fact that expenditures on communications were bound to increase with the expansion of United Nations activities and the rise in postal rates, and although he recognized that various United Nations offices could have different needs, his delegation felt that its proposal was none the less fully justified. In paragraph 238 of its report (A/8008), the Advisory Committee had itself observed that there was an excessive reliance on expensive means of communication. An objective appraisal of table 10-4 appearing in the budget estimates (A/8006) revealed a number of inconsistencies. The Advisory Committee had concluded that the structure of the expenditures appears to indicate "that the same standards of control are not always applied at different offices". That conclusion was a

partial explanation, but it appeared also that certain work habits were not always as efficient as they could be. A careful examination of cables sent by one office showed that they sometimes did not deal with matters of sufficient urgency to justify sending a cable. Moreover, the texts of the cables were rarely as clear or as concise as they should be. Part of the cost, moreover, was attributable to private use of telephone and postal facilities by staff members. Regulations should be issued to limit unwarranted expenditure; if such regulations were to be effective, the co-operation of the staff of the various departments would be required.

41. The reduction of \$68,000, or 1.1 per cent, recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 10 appeared to be nothing more than a token reduction corresponding almost exactly to the percentage reduction for the whole budget. Although his delegation did not know what the Advisory Committee had used as a basis for calculating the reduction, it considered the reduction insufficient, in view of the Committee's comments on section 10. An element of subjective analysis necessarily entered into the evaluation of the recommended reduction, but if strict and uniform standards of control were applied at Headquarters and in other offices, and if the co-operation of staff members could be obtained, a substantial reduction could be made in the expenditure for that section. The additional reduction of \$60,000 recommended by his delegation was perfectly realistic, provided that it was spread over different communications services and between Headquarters and outside offices. The reduction would reduce the Secretary-General's estimates for section 10 by only 2 per cent and would in no way undermine the efficiency of United Nations work.

42. From a strictly financial point of view, the proposed reduction represented only a very small sum, when compared to the whole budget. His delegation's proposal, however, had a further implication. Its adoption by the Fifth Committee would indicate that the members of the Committee were willing to exercise technical and financial control over expenditure instead of allowing themselves to be guided by purely political considerations. Such an attitude could only strengthen the Committee's prestige.

43. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said he was awaiting with interest the Secretary-General's report on computers, and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee. He expressed his concern at the fact that, while the United Nations was making fundamental decisions concerning electronic equipment, various bodies were continuing to make their own plans for renting or buying equipment. His delegation did not know what concrete use would be made of the integrated 360/65 system mentioned in paragraph 10.8 of the budget estimates, but feared that there would be overlapping of expenditures if the Geneva Computer Centre was established. Any plan to purchase or increase the capacity of electronic equipment should be postponed until a decision had been taken on that Centre. Moreover, he suspected that in certain cases organizations simply sought to obtain the most powerful and modern equipment without giving sufficient thought

to how useful such equipment would be for solving their particular problems. Purchasing third-generation computers, which were inexpensive, would, on the other hand, make possible a certain amount of decentralization at a lower cost.

44. He requested the Controller to explain the procedure used for purchasing or renting electronic equipment.

45. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee would consider the question of computers separately, when the relevant report by the Secretary-General was issued.

46. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) observed that section 10 of the budget contained estimates for the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. While ECE and ECAFE had been set up in 1947, ECLA in 1948 and ECA in 1958, the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut had not been established until 1963, partly to take the place of a regional economic commission in the Middle East. The objectives of the Beirut Office were set out in General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII), entitled "Decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions". In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the General Assembly *inter alia* requested the Secretary-General to:

"... proceed with the policy of decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, taking into consideration the interests of States which are not members of any regional commission by adopting such measures as may be necessary to ensure that they receive the same benefits as they would receive through membership in the regional commissions . . ."

Although the terms of reference of the Beirut Office were fairly similar to those of the regional economic commissions, its organization and structure were quite different, and its budget for 1971 was ten to twenty times smaller than that of the other regional economic commissions. Moreover, its activities, which concerned at least ten countries in the region, were directly controlled by United Nations Headquarters. None of the Governments concerned had any say in the appointment of the Director of the Office or of regional advisers, or, for that matter, in any of its activities, although those had expanded considerably, since the Office now represented many United Nations organs and specialized agencies, such as UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP and FAO. The Iraqi Government therefore considered that the Beirut Office should not be controlled solely and directly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Governments of the region should be consulted concerning the appointment of a new Director, and a procedure similar to that used in appointing Resident Representatives should be established in that connexion. If the prior approval of the Governments concerned was required for the

appointment of a Resident Representative, it was anomalous for the head of an organ with activities as important as those of the Beirut Office to be appointed without any consultation with the Governments concerned.

47. He therefore proposed that the appropriations for the Office in Beirut should be increased commensurately with the importance of its activities and responsibilities; the Office should also be given a measure of independence at least equal to that of the regional economic commissions, and the Governments of the region should play a direct part in the appointment of the Director of the Office, whose post should be that of Director (D-2). The number of regional advisers should also be increased. The scope of the Office's activities should be enlarged to cover marketing of the products of Member States and the promotion of trade co-operation. Finally, the structure of the Office should be changed by establishing a governing board or an advisory board to which it would be responsible.

48. The CHAIRMAN asked the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to inform him at the following meeting whether he maintained the proposal which he had made at the previous meeting to postpone for the time being any decision on section 10 and to request the Advisory Committee to reconsider it, taking into account the comments made during the debate.

49. He invited the Committee to suspend consideration of section 10 and to resume the general discussion of the budget estimates for the financial year 1971.

General discussion (continued)

50. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the commemorative session of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations provided the Committee with an excellent opportunity to reflect on the past, present and future of the Organization, and to study ways and means of increasing its effectiveness. The Soviet Union, as a founder Member of the United Nations, was anxious for the Organization to contribute effectively to the maintenance of international peace and security, to the protection of human rights, to peaceful coexistence and to friendly co-operation between peoples. As the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party had recently declared at Baku, the Soviet Union took an optimistic view of the future of the United Nations and was convinced that the peaceful policy that it pursued in accordance with Leninist doctrine corresponded to the interests of all peoples. It was by virtue of that policy that the USSR delegation had submitted to the United Nations the question of measures for the strengthening of international security, which was one of the most important items on the agenda of the current session. Indeed, the solution of all outstanding contemporary problems depended on the methods chosen to ensure international security. All the peoples of the world hoped that the United Nations would help to solve those problems. In order

not to dash their hopes, the Organization must have an efficient apparatus in which all its Members could have confidence, and it must concentrate on solving the most important problems, without dispersing its efforts. The present shortcomings of the United Nations were particularly obvious from its budget.

51. Several delegations, including his own, had expressed their anxiety at the growth of the budget and, in particular, at the increase in the number of staff. The establishment of many new organs, committees and services to study methods of reducing staff by making the best use of existing resources, including the establishment of a new Administrative Management Service, had not yielded the expected results and did not seem to justify the expenditure involved. Thus, the total amount of the budget estimates for 1971, apart from the additional expenditure arising from decisions taken at the current session, was \$199 million, representing an increase of over 19 per cent over the budget for the preceding year. As the Polish representative had pointed out (1358th meeting), that increase was three times greater, in percentage terms, than the average annual increase of the national income of Member States. It was absolutely unwarranted, and he called upon the Fifth Committee to take steps to reduce the appropriations requested. There was no ground for the assertion that such a reduction might hamper the execution of United Nations programmes, since any danger that the Organization might be paralysed arose, rather, from the undue inflation of its budget.

52. Many Member States had reservations concerning the use made of their contributions and the fairness of the quota scale. The United Nations should establish an order of priority for the execution of its programmes and should not disperse its efforts. In that connexion, he shared the views expressed by the Argentine representative at the General Assembly meeting on 30 September 1970 (1854th plenary meeting) who had attributed the budget increase to the fact that, every year, the agenda of the General Assembly included a large number of secondary problems which remained unsolved and prevented the Assembly from settling the really important issues. In paragraph 4 of his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8006), the Secretary-General stated that there was a distinct case "for the establishment of real priorities with reference to the more important issues of the times". That proposal by the Secretary-General was extremely important and called for the adoption of appropriate measures. The Economic and Social Council should prepare and submit to the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly a programme of measures to be taken to improve the execution of programmes in the economic and social field, by eliminating duplication and making the best use of personnel and financial resources, so as to reduce the appropriations requested for the regional economic commissions and for United Nations organs dealing with economic and social questions. He objected to the creation of useless posts, such as that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which the Third Committee was considering, in violation of the Charter, and which would entail considerable supplementary

appropriations. He hoped that the Fifth Committee would take a firm stand against that proposal.

53. Staff costs represented three quarters of the total budget, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had stated at the 1357th meeting of the Committee (A/C.5/1310), and in five years the Secretariat staff had increased by over 2,500. That increase had occurred because, as soon as any organ adopted a resolution asking the Secretariat to carry out some task, the department concerned immediately asked for new posts to be established. In those circumstances, it was not surprising that the Secretary-General was asking for an additional 94 established and 128 provisional posts for 1971. The establishment of provisional posts was a dangerous practice, as they would later become established posts. The heads of departments not only had no intention of giving up the posts granted the preceding year on a provisional basis, but were asking for twice as many for the current year, and the cost of the additional posts requested by the Secretary-General for 1971 amounted to nearly \$2.5 million. In its report (A/8008, para. 53) the Advisory Committee had found it difficult to understand why the Secretary-General had deemed it necessary to seek such substantial increases in the number of established and provisional posts, particularly since the programme-formulating bodies has as yet taken no final decisions calling for new staff resources, some of the established and provisional posts approved for 1970 had not been filled, and the manpower survey by the Administrative Management Service had not yet been completed. It was inadmissible to request additional funds for staff increases, and he proposed that, on the contrary, there should be a reduction of at least 5 per cent in the estimates for established posts, and that the estimates for provisional posts should be completely eliminated. That proposal applied to the secretariat of UNCTAD and UNIDO, as well as to the United Nations Secretariat in New York. Moreover, he saw no reason to increase the salaries of the Professional staff and senior officials, which were already higher than the salaries of the highest-paid national officials.

54. With respect to the funds requested for the construction of new buildings, his delegation had already opposed the construction of new buildings in New York, and maintained its stand on that subject. He was glad to note that the Secretary-General had deemed it appropriate to take administrative steps to reduce the outlays required for new construction in 1971, but it was not enough to postpone the work, since in 1972 the United Nations would probably face even higher building costs. The problem of the construction of new buildings was linked with staff needs, and the manpower study should permit evaluation of those needs. It must also be remembered that the erection of new buildings in New York would have considerable long-term financial implications, particularly in view of the growing inflation in the United States, and the undertaking of any such project must inevitably lead the United Nations into an *impasse*. The Soviet delegation

would therefore vote against the allocation of any funds requested for constructing new buildings in New York.

55. He protested against the inclusion in the United Nations budget of activities contrary to the Charter, such as the maintenance of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, and the continuance of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, and against the inclusion in the budget of expenses relating to bonds issued by the United Nations. Some delegations had referred to General Assembly resolutions in an attempt to justify those illegal expenditures. But whatever their legal grounds, those expenses were nothing more than a burden imposed as the result of acts of imperialist banditry committed under the United Nations flag, for which the Organization now had to pay. The Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea served the aggressive policy of the United States, whose troops were still occupying South Korea and constituting an obstacle to the reunification of that country. He therefore called for the elimination of those items of expenditure from the United Nations budget, and announced that his Government would not pay that portion of its contribution corresponding to those costs.

56. The costs relating to technical assistance programmes should not be included in the regular budget of the United Nations, which should include only administrative costs. Technical assistance costs should be financed solely by voluntary contributions, and should not be charged to all Member States. The Soviet Union granted substantial economic aid to many developing countries, despite the considerable losses it had suffered during the last world war. That aid was aimed in particular at the development of the domestic industries of those countries by the granting of long-term loans totalling 5,000 million roubles, and the provision of equipment and experts. It also included the training of technical cadres through the provision of free places in Soviet universities for students from nearly a hundred developing countries, and the establishment of study grants for those students.

57. Finally, the reduction of \$7 million proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1309) should not obscure the excessive size of the budget proposed for 1971, which was 14 per cent above that for 1970. There should be further reductions in the estimates, and he would strongly support any proposal with that aim.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.