



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.5/1305, A/C.5/1307, A/C.5/1309, A/C.5/  
1310, A/C.5/L.1041)

*General discussion (continued)\**

1. Mr. MARRON (Spain) said that his delegation shared the Secretary-General's concern at the Organization's financial situation and was also disturbed by the increasing volume of its expenditure. On the basis of the information provided by the Secretary-General, the gross increase in the budget was some \$23.9 million. Nevertheless, given the estimated \$700,000 decrease in income from all sources, the net increase was some \$24.6 million. Great as that increase was in absolute terms, its real magnitude could be gauged by weighting the percentage of increase; as a result, the gross figure, even after the reductions proposed by the Secretary-General, represented an increase of 14 per cent, and rose to 17.7 per cent if the comparison was based on the actual budget figures. Without the proposed reductions, those percentages would be 17.5 and 22.4 respectively. In that connexion, he said that the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions (A/8011 and Corr.1) involved an increase of 13.06 per cent in his own country's contribution, which represented a weighted increase of 33 per cent compared with the previous budgetary period.

2. A normal rate of growth in the volume of resources expended by the Organization was healthy, but an excessive growth in expenditure could have adverse and disproportionate effects on contributors. Inflationary tendencies were not the sole cause of the increased expenditure. The study of the nature of the increases in the level of expenditure in the United Nations regular budget (A/C.5/1307) revealed no trends which could account for the increase now confronting the Organization. The data given in figures VIII A and VIII B of that study, showed that the United Nations regular budget had increased at an average rate of 5 per cent during the period 1950-1968. If that growth rate was compared with the weighted growth of the current budget, the difference was so striking as to

be beyond comment. The developing countries faced serious financial difficulties, and it was extremely important for them that a regular, uniform and moderate growth rate in their external payments should be maintained. Likewise, it was important that resources contributed to international organizations should be used to the optimum advantage. His delegation therefore agreed with the Secretary-General that there was a distinct case for the imposition of some order in basic programmes and for the establishment of real priorities with reference to the more important issues of the times.

3. His delegation wished to see expenditure reduced permanently to an acceptable level compatible with available financial resources. The determination of that level was within the competence of the Secretary-General. His delegation had no specific proposals for reductions because it regarded the budget as one body of resources whose redeployment, to be constructive, would have to take account of the effects of any reduction on programmes in hand. The concept of growth rates in excess of the traditional average should be discarded, and any expenditure during the coming budgetary period connected with the construction project at Headquarters should be delayed as long as possible and no new related proposals submitted until the financial situation had improved.

4. His delegation would support the Secretary-General's proposed reduction of some \$7 million—and any other reductions which did not adversely affect the Organization's regular activities. It also supported the Secretary-General's appeal to Member States not to seek reductions beyond those which he had offered in his statement to the Committee (A/C.5/1309). He nevertheless wished to stress his concern at the 33 per cent increase in a single budgetary period to which he had referred earlier.

5. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as to the need for improved machinery for analysis of alternative courses of action so that Member States could take decisions based on the best possible information. Reports on the administrative and financial implications of proposals prepared in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 13.1 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations would remain routine statements of costs unless some impartial machinery was set up to cope with such fundamental questions as whether the projects were necessary and urgent and whether they could be carried out more effectively by other bodies. Those were the most important considerations for the very reason that they helped to assess each

\* Resumed from the 1364th meeting.

project from a comprehensive cost-benefit point of view, a factor which was lacking in the spending process. The Fifth Committee could not disregard the problem and should seek or propose solutions. It was logical for programme-formulating bodies to be aware of the financial implications of their proposals and consider initial decisions in the light of eventual costs. Nevertheless, experience showed that such was not the practice, because bodies were preoccupied with the development of the programmes within their field of competence and not with budgetary consequences or the availability of funds. Furthermore, many decisions with financial implications were taken by bodies with a restricted membership. There should be some machinery to reconcile the wishes of programme-formulating bodies with the over-all resources available to meet those wishes in the light of the will of Member States. The budget should be the instrument of that reconciliation, and the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee should increase their involvement in that connexion.

6. His delegation attached considerable importance to the question of budgetary reform and awaited the relevant reports by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. In the meantime, it tended to favour a budgetary structure based on the principal programmes, developed by item of expenditure. The Secretary-General should, in any case, be allowed the necessary flexibility in administering funds allocated to each programme. More detailed budgeting should not be an obstacle to decision making by the Secretary-General.

7. He tended to favour a two-year budget cycle even though it would not be a panacea. The principal advantage was that departments preparing the budget, the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee itself would be spared considerable time and effort which could be devoted to other fields—an important consideration in view of the Committee's heavy workload. In any event, his delegation supported the suggestions of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in his statement to the Committee (A/C.5/1310) on the question of the budget cycle.

8. General Assembly resolution 2478 (XXIII), which had limited the number of conferences held each year, was not being fully implemented, and since the abolition of the Committee on Conferences the lack of a restraining influence had become apparent, as was clear from the increase of some 30 per cent in expenditure on meetings by comparison with the previous budget. There was a need for critical review of the usefulness of conferences, which would include an evaluation of their cost and their relation to available resources; new and more effective machinery was required.

9. His delegation favoured the introduction of electronic data processing in the Organization's operations because it would lead to greater managerial efficiency and economy. The size of the United Nations required a rationalization of its administrative procedures and that could only be done by the application of modern techniques.

10. He concluded by paying a tribute to the high quality of the documents and reports prepared by the Secretariat.

11. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that the search for new approaches in the spirit of the Organization's anniversary was commendable, but could not be easily applied to the work of the Fifth Committee, whose tasks and problems were essentially practical and recurring. On the other hand, some might regard as quite dramatic the submission of a new record budget representing a very sharp increase over the current appropriations, followed by a proposal for a \$7 million reduction. It was difficult to visualize the effect which that development would have for the life and work of the United Nations in years to come. One thing was quite clear: carefully prepared budget estimates could not be reduced by \$7 million without certain repercussions. He did not, however, intend to criticize the Secretary-General's action. In paragraph 3 of his foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8006), the Secretary-General had stated that in examining the needs of each department, the guiding principle had been to reach agreement on every possible economy consistent with good management. In his statement to the Committee (A/C.5/1309), he had said that one consideration which had prompted him to propose the reduction had been the increasing gravity of the Organization's financial position. He had also explained that he had been persuaded that certain risks must be taken and perhaps some sacrifices made.

12. It could not be denied that the initial estimates before the Committee indicated a rather high total—approaching some \$200 million. Viewed in isolation, even that figure was not very impressive for a world organization. It was relevant to compare it with sums spent by Governments for other purposes such as armaments. Important as the regular budget was, it was but one factor in the many faceted activities of the United Nations system. Assessments for the regular budget were only one of the several categories of contributions which Member States were called upon to make. The emphasis during the current year was, perhaps, not so much on the level of the budget estimates as on the rather sharp increase they showed. In paragraph 4 of his foreword to the budget estimates, the Secretary-General had referred to the burden placed upon Member States of limited means by the total contributions made by them to the international organizations to which they belonged. Yet the Norwegian delegation was not convinced that it was the States "of limited means" which had complained most. Some Member States of very ample means had expressed more concern about the level of the budget. As to States in financial straits, should they not accept that they had to pay a certain fee for membership of organizations which gave them benefits, political influence and access to world public opinion? On the other hand, there were some States in the upper economic echelon which, while exulting in the infallibility of their economic systems in other forums, appeared to believe that their contributions to the United Nations system were too high and burdensome and seemed to regard it as their sovereign right to decide for themselves

which parts of the budget they should contribute to or even, as in one case, to withhold their total assessments. What then of the position of States which had not complained about the level of the budget, had never defaulted on any of their financial responsibilities to the United Nations, had responded to the call for voluntary contributions and to which the United Nations was financially indebted without any visible possibility of being able to honour its debt? It was to be hoped that the Secretary-General had good reasons for the optimism reflected in his statement (A/C.5/1309) that there was a good prospect that an imaginative initiative might meet with a positive response.

13. On the subject of the manpower utilization survey, he said that the Committee needed more information on its conclusions and on the Secretary-General's follow-up action. Pending completion of the total survey operation, the Secretary-General proposed to maintain throughout 1971 the level of resources approved for 1970. On balance, that seemed a wise decision. While it was for the Secretary-General to take the appropriation decisions upon completion of each phase of the survey, the Committee had to consider the completed operation as a whole, and that would probably be easier if new recruitment was deferred as proposed. Referring to paragraph 61 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8008), which mentioned discussions between the survey teams and the heads of departments, he said that the authority of the findings of the survey should not be undermined by turning them into bargaining points.

14. The proposal to make economies in connexion with the various construction plans approved in principle by the General Assembly was reasonable, although it was difficult to see how it could be done without certain sacrifices. It was predictable that the deferment of any activities in that area would result in subsequent higher costs due to inflationary pressures.

15. The twenty-fifth anniversary year was a suitable occasion for a thorough review of the global aspect of programming and budgeting in the United Nations. Considerable preparatory work had been done and much material was available. The time had probably come for reaching some preliminary conclusions and taking some initial action. The Committee should assume a central role in the discussion and devote ample time to discussing the whole process of programming and financing programmes.

16. His delegation would reserve its position on the question of salary increases for the staff and the recommendations of the International Civil Service Advisory Board. Nevertheless, if a salary increase was found to be justified, it should not be reduced on the grounds of the difficult financial situation of the Organization or the high level of the budget. The whole question of the working conditions of the staff was complex and perhaps required review in all its aspects. One factor affecting working conditions in the Secretariat was the insistence on the meticulously mathematical application of the principle of geographical distribution and the tendency to make the first requirement of para-

graph 3 of Article 101, of the Charter—efficiency, competence and integrity—a secondary consideration. If that was a political fact of life which could not be tempered by reference to productivity and fair promotion opportunities, other ways of retaining qualified personnel must be found.

17. Referring to the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, (A/C.5/1310), he said that the problem of the workload of the Advisory Committee required attention from the Fifth Committee during its current session.

18. Mr. YOGASUNDRAM (Ceylon) said that the upward trend in the annual budget of the United Nations had become a permanent feature which the Committee would probably always have to take into consideration if the Organization was to continue to be effective. Admittedly, that trend should not be accepted with complacency, particularly when the increase for 1971 was higher than ever before. However, the increase was not by itself alarming; what was more important was the nature of the increase, and it was regrettable that the Committee could not devote time to a detailed examination of that question, as analysed in document A/C.5/1307. The fact was that an increasing workload automatically meant increased expenditure; surely the committees of the United Nations could not give the Organization increased responsibility yet keep its budget frozen at a level which might bring its work to a halt.

19. The Fifth Committee's task was to ensure that it was getting proper value for the money spent, that every possible economy was being made and that waste was being eliminated through stringent controls. The world could hardly be told that, because of increasing costs, the Organization could no longer extend old commitments or undertake new ones; that would be tragic indeed, particularly on its twenty-fifth anniversary, when it had proclaimed progress as one of its key objectives.

20. His delegation was disappointed by the Secretary-General's suggestion in his introductory statement (A/C.5/1309) that no action should be proposed at the current session which would involve substantial additions to the reduced budget level. While it understood the Secretary-General's concern and the spirit in which the suggestion had been made, it was convinced that the Organization grew in stature in direct proportion to the responsibilities it undertook. It was also convinced that uncontrollable inflationary trends would continue and that, despite the strictest economy, budgets would increase from year to year. The question was whether the Fifth Committee was going to continue to apply a standstill approach year after year, rejecting any new commitments. His delegation hoped not, as that would be a very bad start for the Organization's second quarter century and would impose an artificial ceiling on the budget. If the Organization was to be of service to the world it should accept the responsibilities it was given and endeavour to find the appropriate resources.

21. Clearly, cost increases, particularly the pressure of inflationary trends throughout the world, rather than

an expansion of activities had adversely affected the 1971 budget estimates. There had also been a number of unusual factors. It seemed to his delegation that the growth in expenditures in the economic and social areas, international trade and industrial development was going to be the yardstick by which future United Nations budgets would be measured and the framework within which order could be imposed. The expansion of those activities was also directly dependent on the maintenance of a certain level of staff at an adequate level of emolument. In that regard, his delegation felt that the Fifth Committee should pay close attention to the recommendations made by the International Civil Service Advisory Board because a failure to increase the rate of pay of certain sections of the Secretariat would adversely affect their morale and efficiency.

22. He wondered whether the findings of the manpower utilization and deployment surveys had been taken into consideration in both the initial budget estimates and in the Secretary-General's proposal to freeze the level of staff for 1971 at the approved level for 1970 by dropping ninety new posts.

23. Although his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's suggestion that every possible administrative measure should be taken to reduce cash requirements in 1971 for the implementation of various construction plans, he nevertheless hoped that the construction of the necessary additional premises in the ECAFE and ECA regions would not be prejudiced.

24. Without going into the historical reasons why the United Nations had been brought to the verge of bankruptcy, he wished to draw attention to the inevitable relationship between political decisions and their financial execution, and expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would soon make progress in alleviating the Organization's serious financial situation.

25. In his delegation's view, programme budgeting, the budget cycle and planning estimates were far more than mere organizational matters; they represented the very core of the economic and social programme of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. As the Bertrand report (see A/7822) showed, there were inadequacies in the present financial system and in present programming methods; yet before any changes could be made it was necessary to know exactly what those changes would mean in terms of the funds available and how they would be used. That would entail a study of the proposed change in the budget cycle and an examination of the presentation of the budget estimates by programme. His delegation favoured the introduction of programme budgeting in parallel with budgeting by item of expenditure at the twenty-sixth session. Drawing attention to paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2370 (XXII), which imposed an important responsibility on the programme-formulating bodies of the United Nations, he said that his delegation was awaiting developments in that connexion which would affect the question of financing.

26. The thinking of the Fifth Committee should reflect the decisions taken in the programme-formulating organs. The Committee could not act in a vacuum, nor could it either anticipate or lag behind decisions made elsewhere. It would do itself a disservice if it failed to establish a close link with the other decision-making bodies of the United Nations.

27. Mr. BERREZOUG (Algeria) felt that the Fifth Committee should play a more important part than any other deliberative body because it was responsible for ensuring the rational utilization of the Organization's resources.

28. Although the budget estimates for 1971 represented a substantial increase over the appropriations for 1970, that increase was the result, not of an actual expansion in the Organization's activities, but of a substantial rise in purely administrative costs, primarily due to the inflation prevailing in New York and the cost of new construction. While his delegation had always maintained that budgetary increases were a natural phenomenon due to programme expansion and the increasing needs of the developing countries, and had always supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the budget estimates, it had also repeatedly stressed the need to reduce administrative costs and exercise stricter financial discipline. His delegation was deeply concerned at the Organization's tendency to devote an increasingly large share of its resources to administrative expenses to the detriment of functional and productive programmes for the promotion of the economic and social development of all peoples.

29. His delegation wished to reserve its position on the changes proposed in the budget estimates in the Secretary-General's statement at the 1357th meeting (A/C.5/1309) until it had received more detailed information on the revised budget estimates and the comments of the Advisory Committee. However, it hoped that the proposed reduction of \$7 million in the Organization's total budget would not hamper its work. With regard to the freeze on staff level proposed by the Secretary-General, he recalled that the initial budget estimates had proposed the establishment of a number of permanent and provisional posts to meet urgent needs.

30. His delegation hoped to receive as much information as possible on the Administrative Management Service's surveys on the utilization and deployment of staff. Although the surveys had not yet been completed and represented an internal matter of the Secretariat, his delegation felt that Governments should be entitled to review the conduct of the surveys so that they could evaluate the recommendations made to the Secretary-General and thus help him to improve the efficiency with which the Organization's personnel were used.

31. His delegation wished again to stress the need for the scrupulous observance of the principles of geographical distribution and linguistic balance within the Secretariat. While some progress had undoubtedly

been made, only very few nationals of the developing countries occupied high-level posts.

32. With regard to budget presentation, programming and the budget cycle, he agreed with the Bertrand report that current budgetary procedures had certain inadequacies which had to be remedied, but felt that it would be wrong to decide to change over to programme budgeting until all the practical implications of that system were known. The presentation of the budget by programme presupposed the establishment of priorities among various programmes, a task to which greater consideration should be given. The question of a two-year budget was a very controversial one which must be given careful thought. His delegation accordingly felt that it would be premature to take a final decision on the subject at the current session, and that the question should be considered more thoroughly on the basis of further studies by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee and the competent governmental bodies.

33. His delegation wished to draw attention to the atmosphere of insecurity which reigned in New York, where a great many Permanent Missions to the United Nations had been the victims of attacks. The situation had now become intolerable and it was high time for the host country to take all necessary steps to protect representatives of Member States. At the twenty-fourth session, his delegation had expressed very serious reservations concerning the proposal for expanding United Nations Headquarters in New York; it felt compelled not only to reiterate those reservations but also to reconsider whether the Headquarters should be maintained in New York at all. In that respect, he hoped that the Committee would be informed of the results of the activities of the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations so that it could assess its progress. His delegation would support any proposal for increasing that Committee's effectiveness.

34. On the eve of the adoption of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, particular attention should be given to the financial situation of the United Nations. It was primarily the responsibility of the highly industrialized countries to find the means of solving the Organization's financial difficulties and place it on a sounder financial basis.

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

SECTION 1. TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (*concluded*) (A/8006, A/8008 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1302 AND CORR.1)

SECTION 5. TRAVEL OF STAFF (*concluded*) (A/8006, A/8008 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1302 AND CORR.1)

35. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at the previous meeting, his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation recommended for section 1 in first reading because it

felt that it was essential to ensure the holding of the most important sessions of the various bodies of the United Nations. On the other hand, at the same meeting, it had abstained in the vote on section 5 because, although it felt that most of the requests made were well founded, that section also included estimates which did not seem to arise from any real need and could be deleted without impairing the Organization's work. The estimates contained in those two sections, and in another as yet unconsidered section, for the holding of an additional four-week session of the International Law Commission were not justified in his delegation's view and it reserved the right to explain its position in detail in connexion with the consideration of the note of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1314) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution adopted on that question by the Sixth Committee.

SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND RENTAL OF PREMISES (A/8006, A/8008 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1302 AND CORR.1)

36. The CHAIRMAN observed that, in the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8006), the Secretary-General had requested an initial appropriation in the amount of \$6,241,000. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its first report (A/8008, para. 232), had recommended approval of that amount. In document A/C.5/1302 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General had requested an additional amount of \$3,000. The Advisory Committee had, however, recommended that that amount should be excluded at the present time (see A/8008/Add.1, para. 3) and recommended a total amount of \$6,241,000.

37. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's initial estimates under section 9 was \$656,050 more than had been appropriated for 1970, but the 1970 appropriation was expected to be insufficient and the Fifth Committee, at the 1360th meeting, had approved a supplementary appropriation for that section.

38. In many cases, the additional requirements foreseen in 1971 for section 9 arose from cost increases over which the Secretary-General had little control; that was one reason why the Advisory Committee had not recommended any reduction. However, as the Advisory Committee had observed (A/8008, para. 232), it felt that a close watch on expenditure in some areas could result in savings.

39. In its recommendations (A/8008/Add.1), concerning the revised estimates for 1971 as a result of decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, the Advisory Committee had not included any observations on the additional appropriation of \$3,000 under section 9 because it felt that the Secretary-General might wish to review that request in the light of his statement (A/C.5/1309) to the Fifth Committee at its 1357th meeting.

40. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that estimates under section 9 were considerably higher than appropriations for 1970. The estimates for chapter I, for example, represented an increase of \$227,000, or approximately 9 per cent above the appropriations for 1970. His delegation would like a more detailed explanation of the reasons for such a sharp increase in the cost of contractual services in the course of a single year. It realized that, owing to the increase in the cost of labour and services, there had been a rise in maintenance costs. However, an increase of 9 per cent in a single year was excessive, and could not be justified by the increase in the cost of services.

41. The increase of approximately 13 per cent, in chapter II was even greater. It appeared that in the 1971 estimates, the anticipated increase in electricity rates in mid-1970 had been taken into account for the full year. His delegation wished to know whether the anticipated increase had occurred, when it had occurred, and if it had amounted to 13 per cent.

42. In chapter III, an increase of \$250,000, or approximately 15 per cent, had been requested. The increase was partly accounted for by the need to rent additional storage space. His delegation wondered whether there was an urgent need to rent such space; surely the transfer and outposting of staff to Geneva resulting from the establishment of the International Computing Centre should make it possible to reduce the amount spent on rental of premises in New York.

43. Before taking a position on section 9, his delegation would like further information on those points.

44. Mr. CEPEDA ORTIZ (Colombia), referring to the increase of \$656,050 in the cost of maintenance, operation and rental of premises at Headquarters, said that it was logical that the costs of an expanding organization, like the United Nations, should go up. His delegation wondered, however, whether the extent of the rise was justified in terms of organizational efficiency.

45. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), referring to the comments made by the representative of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, said that the increases in chapter I were almost wholly attributable to salary and related increases required by the various unions involved. Such increases were negotiated on an industry-wide basis, and the United Nations was obliged to meet them.

46. Referring to chapter II, he said that, on 8 September 1970, the actual rate of increase in electricity costs had amounted to 16.5 per cent.

47. The Secretariat had been driven by sheer necessity to rent the outside storage space to which the representative of the Soviet Union had referred in commenting on chapter III. It only hoped that the space rented would be sufficient to meet anticipated needs in the next two or three years. Before the additional

space had been rented, it had been necessary to store documents in the driveway, an unsatisfactory practice.

48. Replying to the question raised by the Colombian representative, he said that the Secretariat earnestly hoped that it had maintained its efficiency. The results of the Administrative Management Survey, which would be communicated to the Committee, would reveal whether or not efficiency had been maintained.

49. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that there was doubtless a need for extra space in which to store the abundance of documents produced by the Organization. In view of the increase in budget estimates, however, it might be unwise to try to solve all problems in 1971. Perhaps the idea of renting additional space in that year should be abandoned. The fact that documentation had accumulated to such a point that it had to be stored in the driveway would seem to indicate a lack of planning on the part of the Secretariat. A great deal of money spent on producing quantities of documents which Member States did not require and had not the time to study, and now more money was being requested to store those unnecessary documents. The Secretariat should take steps to remedy the situation.

50. Mr. VAUGHAN (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services) explained that the Secretariat had made a submission on the matter to the Advisory Committee and had been given permission to rent the additional space required; the premises had therefore been rented and occupied and were in operation. The Secretariat was concerned lest after one or two years even the additional space might prove inadequate. Any suggestions for reducing documentation would be welcome, but that was a matter the Committee would discuss under another item of its agenda.

51. Mr. DAO (Mali) suggested that the host country should be requested to make storage premises available to the Organization free of charge. Reference to table 9-4 of the budget estimates showed that developing countries supplied premises free of charge; the host country should follow their example.

52. Mr. MARRON (Spain), referring to the comments made by the Soviet representative, suggested that the storage problem might be alleviated if the volume of documents produced was adapted to the storage capability.

53. He asked whether it would be possible in future budget estimates to add to table 9-4 information concerning premises rented at Headquarters and Geneva; details relating to the surface areas of the premises and the use to which they were put should be included. Such information would enable the Committee to deal more efficiently with requests for appropriations for new construction. The Committee should note that he was merely making a suggestion, not a formal proposal.

*The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/8008, para. 232, and A/8008/Add.1, para. 3) for an appropriation in the amount of \$6,241,000 under sec-*

tion 9 was approved in first reading by 67 votes to none with 8 abstentions.

SECTION 11. PRINTING (A/8006, A/8008 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1302 AND CORR.1)

54. The CHAIRMAN said that in his budget estimates for 1971 (A/8006), the Secretary-General had requested an amount of \$3,082,700, and that the Advisory Committee, in its first report (A/8008), had recommended reductions bringing the total to \$3,032,700. In his revised estimates (A/C.5/1302 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General had requested an additional amount of \$25,000 and the Advisory Committee in its second report (A/8008/Add.1) had recommended a reduction of \$5,000 in that additional amount. The total amount proposed by the Advisory Committee was therefore \$3,052,700.

55. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the estimate of requirements for section 11 requested by the Secretary-General amounted to \$3,107,700, or some \$283,000 more than the appropriations for the current year. Reference to paragraphs 245 to 256 of document A/8008 and paragraph 10 of document A/8008/Add.1, would show that the Advisory Committee had recommended an aggregate reduction of \$55,000, most of which would be applied to chapter II, Recurrent publications. Section 11 did not embody the totality of United Nations expenditure for printing; printing requirements amounting to more than \$600,000 were included in six other sections of the budget. Thus, the aggregate cost of printing to the Organization was heavy, and the Advisory Committee believed that efforts should be made to reduce it.

Accordingly, the Committee had suggested that an inquiry might be made into whether the value of all publications provided for in chapter II was commensurate with their cost. The Committee was also concerned at the steep rise in printing costs in many countries, and believed that greater efforts should be made to assign contractual printing on a wide geographic basis at the lowest cost consistent with the maintenance of required standards.

56. In conclusion, he expressed the Advisory Committee's appreciation of the valuable work done by the United Nations Publications Board.

57. Mr. STOBY (Guyana) said that in the budget estimates the Secretary-General had provided a detailed analysis of the recurrent publications to be produced. In contrast, the Advisory Committee had made a general recommendation for reductions, with no specific proposals for specific publications. In addition, in paragraph 251 of its first report, the Advisory Committee made the substantive judgement that the value of all publications provided for was perhaps not commensurate with their cost to the Organization. The publications to which the Advisory Committee referred were produced as a result of decisions of organs of the United Nations and were subject to review by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council. The Advisory Committee should not make an arbitrary judgment; if it wished to recommend reductions it should indicate which publications were of little substantive value, which were too long and the extent by which reports could be reduced.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*