



CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 76:</i>	
<i>Budget estimates for the financial years 1965 and 1966 (continued)</i>	
<i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1966 (continued)</i>	
<i>General discussion (continued) . . . . .</i>	65
<i>First reading (continued)</i>	
<i>Section 11. Printing . . . . .</i>	69

*Chairman:* Mr. Najib BOUZIRI (Tunisia).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Olarte (Colombia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 76

Budget estimates for the financial years 1965 and 1966 (continued) (A/5799 and Corr.1; A/5805, A/5807 and Corr.1; A/5940 and Corr.1; A/5969, A/5995, A/5996, A/6005, A/6007 and Corr.1; A/6050; A/C.5/1009 and Corr.1; A/C.5/1011, 1014, 1025 and Corr.1; A/C.5/1027, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038; A/C.5/L.833, L.836)

Budget estimates for the financial year 1966 (continued) (A/5799 and Corr.1; A/5805, A/5807 and Corr.1; A/5940 and Corr.1; A/5996, A/6005, A/6007 and Corr.1; A/6050; A/C.5/1009 and Corr.1; A/C.5/1025 and Corr.1; A/C.5/1027, 1035, 1036, 1038; A/C.5/L.833, L.836)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. IBEKWE (Nigeria) said that more than half of the States Members of the United Nations did not enjoy a decent level of living. The budget estimates must therefore reflect not only the concern of the few, but the hopes and aspirations of the many. During the discussion of the budget estimates for 1964 at the eighteenth session, his delegation had stated in the Fifth Committee (1028th meeting) that it was not wholly in agreement with the Secretary-General's policy of "consolidation and containment". It had felt that a policy of cautious growth should govern the activities of the Organization. It was happy to note that in his budget estimates for 1966 (A/6005), the Secretary-General had taken fully into account the desire of many States to see a new impetus given to the efforts of the United Nations during the second half of the United Nations Development Decade.

2. Nigeria was fully aware that the Organization had gone through a period of crisis, but the crisis, in its view, was more political than financial. It could not be solved by arbitrary curtailment of the activi-

ties of the Organization and other minor reductions in the budget estimates. The solution could be found only by a conscious effort on the part of all Members to restore the United Nations to solvency.

3. His delegation recognized that the total gross budget submitted for 1966—more than \$116 million—was very high, but that was in itself an act of faith in the continued existence of the Organization. It fully supported the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 48 of his foreword to the budget estimates for 1966 that "our only and overriding purpose should be not only to husband our present resources to their maximum effect but to welcome, foster and make unstinting provision for the natural and inevitable growth in our global responsibilities".

4. The Nigerian delegation shared the concern of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the steady growth in the number of meetings and conferences. The increase in the number of meetings imposed an additional workload on the Secretariat, but it also created problems for the developing countries, which had to release essential experts to attend the meetings. Only the Member States could, by their decisions, reduce the number of meetings requested. No better description of the present situation could be given than that provided by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 72 of its main report to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session.<sup>1/</sup> As the Israel representative had pointed out (1071st meeting), it was contradictory to call, in the Fifth Committee, for a reduction of the budget, and, at the same time, to initiate or support, in the Economic and Social Council or in other bodies, requests for further meetings or conferences, without first ascertaining whether it was financially and administratively feasible to hold them. The Committee would have an opportunity to alter that trend when it considered the total programme of work for 1966 and particularly when it reviewed General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII) of December 1957. His delegation hoped that Member States would support what the Secretary-General was doing to reduce the number of meetings and that the General Assembly would study the general problem in some depth.

5. One of the most serious problems confronting the United Nations was the trend in subsidiary organs to take decisions involving financial expenditure which did not have the prior approval of the General Assembly. That constituted complete disregard of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 7.

As the Secretary-General had stated in paragraph 37 of his foreword to the budget estimates, "the General Assembly is the only organ which can authorize expenditures or approve appropriations, and even the Assembly can do so only by a two-thirds majority". The Nigerian delegation therefore supported the suggestion made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in his statement (A/C.5/1038) at the 1066th meeting that the Fifth Committee should once again draw the attention of the President of the General Assembly to Financial Regulation 13.1 and rule 154 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure.

6. His delegation supported whole-heartedly the statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee concerning the need for an integrated programme and budget policy. If, in presenting programmes, the financial implications of the various activities were clearly indicated, a much clearer picture would be obtained of the cost of the programmes, and the budgets of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies could be more readily compared. However, the fact that the budget and programme were submitted in a single document could not in itself lead to curtailment of the budget's growth. Such curtailment could be achieved only if Member States were willing to show restraint in requesting new programmes involving sizable expenditure and to curtail existing programmes whenever feasible. Furthermore, the question of long-term planning of the Organization's activities under a consolidated budget might not prove as easy as it seemed under the present system. His delegation agreed with the Netherlands representative that the question required further study by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee.

7. On the question of the reorganization of the Secretariat, which was referred to in section 3 (Salaries and wages) of the budget and in paragraph 57 of the Advisory Committee's main report (A/6007 and Corr.1), his delegation was particularly interested in the creation of a new post for a Commissioner for Social Development and Housing at the Under-Secretary level. The creation of such a post was of interest to all developing countries, for the shift of population from rural to urban areas brought with it problems of housing and unemployment which were among the most difficult that those countries had to face. The Nigerian delegation welcomed the reorganization and enlargement of the Centre for Industrial Development and hoped that its new structure would enable the Centre to increase its advisory services to the developing countries. His delegation was also interested in the establishment of a Planning and Programming Centre. It hoped that, in the coming years, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would be in a position not only to render more advisory services to Governments, but also to recruit, for various periods, government officials connected with development programming.

8. However, the Nigerian delegation did not think that all the post reclassifications proposed by the Secretary-General were justified. It agreed with the Advisory Committee on the matter, but regretted that the latter's recommendation (*ibid.*, para. 181) was such a timid one. The appropriation of \$59,700 recom-

mended by the Advisory Committee seemed unduly generous. It would have been preferable had the Advisory Committee recommended to the Secretary-General that reclassification be suspended until the effect of the salary increases proposed by the International Civil Service Advisory Board (A/5918/Add.1, para. 110) was known. His delegation also opposed the conversion of some General Service posts to Professional posts because of the resultant change in geographical distribution. It would be better, in the long run, to review the grading of the staff in the General Service category.

9. The Nigerian delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 176) that the staff should be increased in 1966 by 178 Professional and 99 General Service posts. It also supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation (*ibid.*, para. 197) that the General Assembly should appropriate, under section 3, a total of \$52,796,000, or \$914,000 less than was requested by the Secretary-General.

10. Recalling the statements made by the representatives of Argentina (1068th meeting) and Brazil (1069th meeting), he said that the growth in the annual budget of the United Nations and the specialized agencies corresponded roughly to the growth in the membership of the United Nations. That increase was, unfortunately, not accompanied by a higher capacity to pay, but rather by an increase in the demands on the Organization's resources. The new Member States, most of them developing countries, had brought with them a host of economic and social problems. On the whole they had preferred to put their faith in multilateral rather than bilateral assistance. It was, therefore, not surprising that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should have been increasingly called upon in the past five years to bear a greater part of the burden for the social and economic growth of those countries. The Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations stated that the United Nations would strive "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" and an increased awareness of the Organization's responsibilities had led to the adoption of resolution 1710 (XVI), by which the General Assembly had initiated the United Nations Development Decade. The President of the Economic and Social Council, at its thirty-ninth session, had stressed, during the course of the 1396th meeting, held on 31 July 1965, that the gap between rich and poor countries had steadily widened during the past few years and that living conditions had continued to deteriorate in the developing countries. It was therefore disappointing to note that the trend of the general discussion in the Fifth Committee was towards a slowing-down in the rate of growth of the United Nations rather than a renewal of efforts to find a way of meeting, at least in some measure, the needs of those countries.

11. The Nigerian delegation would give careful consideration to the proposals of some delegations eventually to abolish certain sections of the budget and to the suggestion made by the French Foreign Minister on 29 September 1965 at the 1341st plenary meeting of the General Assembly, when they were formulated more precisely. His delegation wondered whether it

would not be desirable to employ an outside consultant to study in a thorough manner the use of the available resources within the Organization. Moreover, the existing programmes should be re-examined to see which of them could be abandoned or postponed; that might be done by a special committee of the General Assembly. The Organization's programme of meetings should be reduced, if necessary by applying a ceiling to the amount included for that purpose in the budget estimates. If a general study of the financial problems were undertaken, the terms of reference should underline the principle of the collective responsibility of Member States for financing United Nations activities, since it would be inadvisable to rely unduly on voluntary funds. Moreover, there should continue to be a place in the regular budget for the financing of a modest technical assistance programme; consequently, part V (Technical programmes) should be retained.

12. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his delegation's support for the Secretary-General's budget policy and the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the net expenditure for 1966 should be reduced to \$96,814,220. The budget should take fully into account the aspirations of the majority of the Members; it should not be a static budget nor a strictly accounting one, accommodating only the administrative apparatus of the United Nations. It should include some expenditure for the development of those areas of the world which needed assistance. It was one of the Organization's paramount duties to contribute to the eradication of disease, poverty and ignorance which were now the bane of the great majority of mankind. It was with those considerations in mind that Nigeria had always examined the budget of the Organization and would continue to do so.

13. Mr. MORARU (Romania) said that he was pleased that the Committee was able to fulfil its role at the present session and attempt to identify the positive elements in the activities and administration of the United Nations. Those positive aspects should be maintained and consolidated and the negative or marginal ones corrected or, if need be, eliminated. It had become urgent to co-ordinate and organize United Nations activities into an effective whole. It was the by-no-means easy task of the Committee to try, in collaboration with the Secretariat and in particular with the Budget Division, to reconcile the demands made by the various departments, functional bodies and subsidiary organs, with the limited resources at the Organization's disposal, especially as there was virtually no list of priorities. Therefore the Committee had examined on many occasions the problem of drawing up and applying a well-defined budgetary policy, without which it was impossible to obtain maximum efficiency at minimum expense. Examination of the budgets for the past few years revealed a complete absence of guidelines and of a clear budgetary policy. It was of course not to be denied that the United Nations could and should develop; but a steady and balanced development of its different activities must be sought. As that problem had not yet been solved satisfactorily, what might be termed a fragmentary development had taken place. The result had been an increasing instability in the programmes of work, which in its turn reduced the possibility of planning

for and consolidating United Nations activities. There was no need to recall that the authority of the General Assembly to make appropriations under the regular budget was in practice nullified in most cases by the procedure of introducing supplementary estimates and resolutions concerning unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure, which invariably led to the appropriations being exceeded. He stressed that the idea that any increase in the budget estimates would lead to a corresponding increase in United Nations activities was an illusion which was not confirmed by the facts. In reality the increase in the size of the budget could be attributed, to a large extent, to administrative expenditure and more particularly to expenditure listed in sections 3 (Salaries and wages) and 4 (Common staff costs), which accounted for more than 63 per cent of the increase requested for the financial year 1966.

14. The Romanian delegation noted with interest the extent to which, in drawing up the budget estimates for 1966, the Secretary-General had been guided by the need to conceive and define a rational budgetary policy. Everyone was aware that the budget estimates had been drawn up in exceptional conditions and that the abnormal situation at the nineteenth session of the General Assembly had prevented the examination and approval of certain directives, apart from those contained in General Assembly resolution 2004 (XIX), which called for budgetary austerity. It was also well known that the Secretary-General had wisely drawn attention, in his foreword to the budget estimates, to the increased requests of Member States for priority to be accorded to such sectors of activity as industrialization, trade and housing. Romania, whose own economic development was in full swing, understood Members' concern very well; but instead of holding back Member States it should prompt them to examine very closely the way in which recommendations on those subjects had been put into practice. The budget estimates for 1966 showed a considerable increase which, although understandable to a certain extent, was largely unjustified. That was particularly the case of the estimates under section 3, where the proposed expenditure was highest. The Secretariat was asking for 441 new posts in 1966. That proposal seemed to ignore the fact that there were a number of established posts which had not yet been filled. That fact proved, on the one hand, that the Secretariat could work with a smaller number of officials and, on the other, that when those posts were filled it would have at its disposal considerable reserves which had not been taken into account. Moreover, it appeared that sufficient attention had not been given to achieving a proper distribution of staff, without which there was bound to be an inflation of the personnel, with all its unfortunate consequences. The question of post reclassification was another serious aspect of the personnel problem. The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 181) that a clear ruling should be made on that subject should be implemented. Finally, the Romanian delegation was particularly distressed to see that expenditure on the recruitment of temporary staff, consultants and experts and the payment of overtime was being maintained and in some cases increased. In the circumstances, the question arose whether ex-

pansion was being adequately controlled, and whether the specialized personnel of the United Nations was fully employed, its work judiciously apportioned and duplication and overlapping avoided.

15. The budgetary situation of the Organization was aggravated by the fact that certain expenses incompatible with the Charter were included in the regular budget. The expenses in question were those in section 12 (Special expenses) and, in particular, the sum of \$8,668,000 requested as reimbursement of the loan contracted by the United Nations to meet the expenses of ONUC and UNEF. That remark also applied to the expenses under sections 16 (Special missions) and 17 (United Nations Field Service). No action had yet been taken on the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the activities of the special missions should be reviewed by the appropriate organs. His delegation felt that some such step must be taken.

16. The expenditure estimates for 1966 were too high even when account was taken of real needs and of the conditions in which the budget estimates had been drawn up. There must be some possibility of making further reductions in them apart from those recommended by the Advisory Committee. That body, which must be commended for its high level of competence, should be more exacting when examining the proposals before it. He stressed in that connexion that the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee for section 3 were too low. There should likewise be some action that would make it possible to analyse the duplication, excessive expenditure, marginal activities and overlapping of functions that had accompanied the recent expansion of certain departments and sectors.

17. The time had come for elaborating and adopting a long-term budget policy and work programme which would enable requirements to be adapted to the actual capabilities of the Organization and would be based on a strictly enforced financial discipline. It was a source of gratification to his delegation that the proposals which the head of the French delegation had made to the General Assembly had been put forward in that spirit. Encouragement and support should be given to the trends, admittedly still very hesitant, which had appeared in the Economic and Social Council towards long-term planning and the establishment of certain standards of priority.

18. Mr. HASLE (Denmark) congratulated the Secretary-General and the Secretariat on the way in which they had handled the finances of the United Nations during the difficult period through which it had just passed and on the way in which they had presented the budget estimates for 1966. He also paid a tribute to the Advisory Committee for the work it had accomplished.

19. His delegation endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Finland in the general discussion (1073rd meeting). Although it reserved the right to make further remarks on certain budget sections, in general it supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

20. Mr. TOTHILL (South Africa) commended the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee for their

contributions to the Committee's work in connexion with the 1966 budget estimates.

21. Although reference had frequently been made to the political crisis through which the Organization had just passed, the United Nations had for some years been faced by a financial crisis. Despite repeated warnings from the Secretary-General, from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and from many delegations, including his own, the financial problem had grown in intensity. His delegation continued to believe that a return to the principles of sound budgetary policy and, especially, a realization of the Organization's limitations were imperative. In that regard, he supported the proposal made by the Foreign Minister of France for setting up a small committee to consider all aspects of the financial problem and to present constructive proposals.

22. While recognizing that the financial difficulties of the United Nations could not be solved merely by reducing or containing the regular budget, his delegation felt that efforts should none the less be made to effect economies wherever possible—not only in regard to day-to-day administrative expenditure but also in regard to the programmes administered by the United Nations. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's proposals on long-term planning and the establishment of priorities (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 45). It was also encouraged to note the recommendation of the Technical Assistance Committee concerning a priority approach towards economic development, social activities and public administration, which, as a result, now fell under one section instead of three sections of the budget.

23. With a system of priorities, the United Nations should be able to maximize its contribution in the various legitimate fields with which it was concerned. In that regard, the co-ordination of programmes and costs would constitute an essential element in the establishment of priorities, for it would enable the various organs of the United Nations and the membership itself to see what resources were available or requested for certain fields of activity, programmes and projects. His delegation would welcome a system of budgetary presentation which would lead to a clearer relation between programmes and costs, and therefore endorse the Advisory Committee's proposal (*ibid.*, para. 79) that a study should be undertaken on the form of the budget.

24. He recalled that, at the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, his delegation had expressed the view (1026th meeting) that the precarious financial situation of the United Nations called for a policy of strict austerity combined with the strict exercise of responsibility by Member States and by the Secretariat. As was pointed out by the Secretary-General in paragraph 15 of the foreword to the budget estimates for 1966, and also by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 46 of its main report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session (A/5807 and Corr.1), the solution to the financial problems facing the United Nations rested principally with Member States. However, the Secretary-General should ensure that expenses were kept to a minimum consistent with efficiency. As the Advisory Committee had said, it was important to find a "reasonable balance be-

tween the increasing needs of the membership and the capacity of that membership to provide the Organization with the means to carry out existing tasks of high priority, as well as to undertake additional activities of a pressing nature in the economic and social area" (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 46). One of the first steps towards obtaining the necessary balance would be to heed the repeated appeals of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee to reduce as far as possible the number of meetings and conferences. It was regrettable, for example, that the Economic and Social Council had been unable to agree to the Secretary-General's recommendation that the functional commissions should meet on a biennial rather than on an annual basis.

25. His delegation had listened with interest to the suggestions which had been made by the representatives of the Netherlands (1069th meeting), Ecuador (1070th meeting) and the United Kingdom (1073rd meeting) in regard to meetings and conferences, and thought that those suggestions merited the Fifth Committee's attention. Because of the expanding programme of meetings, it was becoming increasingly difficult for documents to be prepared, translated and circulated by the Secretariat sufficiently in advance of meetings to permit of proper study by Member States. The solution of those problems was not to be obtained merely by expanding the staff; what was needed was the exercise of greater restraint on the part of Member States and of members of the various subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

26. His delegation shared the concern of other delegations and of the Advisory Committee regarding the increasing tendency for the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council to take decisions having financial implications without the prior approval of the General Assembly. As the Secretary-General had recalled in that regard, "the General Assembly is the only organ which can authorize expenditures or approve appropriations, and even the Assembly can do so only by a two-thirds majority" (A/6005, foreword, para. 37). As his delegation advocated strict adherence to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, it supported the strong recommendations contained in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Advisory Committee's report on the budget estimates for 1965 (A/5807 and Corr.1).

27. He stated that his delegation also supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning the need to keep requests for additional requirements by way of revised estimates to the unavoidable minimum (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 24); the need for careful scrutiny of proposed estimates when additional staff and resources were required for new programmes (*ibid.*, paras. 42 and 43); and the need to continue with the policy of "budgetary stabilization" established by the General Assembly in 1959 in regard to public information activities.

28. In conclusion, he stated that his delegation was following with interest developments in the field of administrative and budgetary co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, which

was dealt with in paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Advisory Committee's report.

First reading (continued) (A/C.5/L.833)

SECTION 11. PRINTING (A/6005, A/6007 AND CORR.1)

29. The CHAIRMAN recalled that in the budget estimates the Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$1,857,600 under that section. In its main report (A/6007, para. 288), the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$57,600.

30. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) pointed out that although section 11 was not one of the largest in the budget estimates the increase in expenditures under that section was among the highest, since it amounted to almost 20 per cent as compared with 1964.

31. The arguments the Secretary-General had advanced in support of that increase were convincing enough, but he wondered whether measures to avoid so great an increase could not be applied there also. It was true that salaries and costs were increasing steadily in New York, but the increase had been no greater than 3 to 5 per cent during the period under consideration and there seemed no reason why it should be reflected by an increase in expenditures as large as that contained in section 11.

32. His country was not in principle opposed to the expenditures listed in section 11, but it wished to emphasize the overriding need to exercise stricter control over the expenditures proposed in that section. In that connexion, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat should make every effort to take into account the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee, particularly in paragraphs 280 and 286 of its report. The problem of the proliferation of documentation had been referred to on several occasions in the Fifth Committee, in connexion not only with printing but with all United Nations publications. The problem affected not only section 11 but other sections of the budget as well. All the delegations had complained of the increasing number and length of the documents submitted to them. It should, however, be perfectly possible to summarize and condense many unnecessarily lengthy documents. In that connexion it was necessary to take into account the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in the past regarding the Organization's documentation. The economies such measures would make it possible to achieve under section 11 were certainly not large, but an improvement in working methods would also make it possible to reduce the allocations proposed in other sections, and that was why his delegation considered the question important.

33. With those reservations, his delegation would vote in favour of the appropriation requested in section 11.

34. Mr. MERON (Israel) agreed with the Advisory Committee (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 285) that the possibility of having more printing done in the developing countries should be studied. His delegation regretted the fact that the distribution of contracts had not changed in favour of those countries since 1963.

35. He shared the concern expressed by the Argentine representative at the volume of publications and hoped that the Publications Board would establish stricter criteria for them. With the help of the Publications Board, the Secretariat should maintain a constant review of existing publications in order to determine which had lost their usefulness or been superseded; the Secretary-General might then propose to the appropriate organs the discontinuance of those publications or a reduction in their frequency of issue. It would also be desirable to strengthen the procedures and processes which at present governed the preparation of documents. The number and length of documents imposed a heavy burden on delegations as well as on the Secretariat.

36. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that in principle he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on section 11, but considered that printing costs could be reduced if more work were assigned to countries in which costs were lower than in the United States of America. The distribution of contracts could be broadened. His delegation would like the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States to the requests for bids on printing work issued by the United Nations.

37. His delegation also proposed that the Committee should, if the question fell within its competence, request the Secretary-General to publish the present Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the trade statistics fascicles on a quarterly basis and to take account in the 1966 budget estimates of the savings (amounting to about \$50,000) which could thus be achieved.

38. Mr. TURNER (The Under-Secretary—The Controller) stated that the question was indeed within the competence of the Fifth Committee. The idea of publishing the statistics referred to by the Hungarian representative on a quarterly basis had been gone into carefully, but it had become apparent that such a solution would be neither practical nor financially profitable, and would reduce the usefulness of those publications, as the statistics they contained would no longer be up to date.

39. On the other hand, the services concerned were making constant efforts to broaden the distribution of printing contracts and to allocate as much of the work as possible to countries and regions where costs were lower than at Headquarters. More than 60 per cent of the printing work was at present done in regions where costs were lower than in New York. It was sometimes necessary, however, for lack of time, to disregard those considerations.

40. He assured the Committee that the Secretariat was fully aware of its obligation under the Financial Regulations of the United Nations to allocate contracts on an international basis and to see that the work was done as economically as possible. However, it was sometimes necessary to take account of the fact that some United Nations publications were difficult to produce and that not all countries had the necessary production facilities.

41. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) thanked the Controller for the explanation he had just given, in the light of which he withdrew his proposal.

42. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) agreed with the representatives of Israel and Hungary that the volume of United Nations publications was considerable. Delegations with limited staff found it difficult to study all the documents produced. Nevertheless, the importance of that documentation should not be forgotten, particularly for the developing countries, which were confronted with particularly urgent problems of planning, and for which United Nations documents, especially those of the regional economic commissions, were extremely useful.

43. Mr. S. K. SINGH (India) agreed that, as the Advisory Committee stated in paragraph 286 of its main report, the Secretary-General should give consideration to a strengthening of the present editorial procedures and processes and that he should prepare a report on the subject in which the heads of the services concerned might find suggestions enabling them to make considerable savings. It was to be hoped that the fears expressed by the Advisory Committee regarding the appearance of the publications included in the 1966 programme (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 287) would not be realized. The increase of more than 110 per cent in the appropriations under chapter III (Studies and reports) for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should not be regarded as alarming and was in full conformity with the requirements of a dynamic international organization, one of whose chief tasks was the welfare and development of the poor countries.

44. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, in its main report, had wished to give special weight to the importance of complete documentation, particularly in the field of international trade, for the developing countries. That was why it had been so cautious with regard to the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the commodity trade statistics. It should be borne in mind that the increasing use of computers, which made possible the processing of data in greater detail and far more rapidly than hitherto, because it made statistical publications more complex and more lengthy, also made it necessary for them to appear more frequently and might thus lead to an excessive proliferation of documentation.

45. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General should explore the possibility of enlarging the spectrum of printing, with special attention being paid to the availability of production facilities in the developing countries. He asked if it would not be possible to indicate in the 1967 budget estimates the results of the Secretary-General's efforts in that direction.

46. Mr. Ahmed ALI (Pakistan) asked when the Secretary-General's report to which reference was made in paragraph 286 of the Advisory Committee's report would be available.

47. Mr. TURNER (The Under-Secretary—The Controller) explained that the report, which would be submitted to the Advisory Committee, would of course be made available to delegations. In any case, the gist of the report would be included in the 1967 budget estimates. The Secretariat had taken note of the

Brazilian representative's request. He pointed out that the increase in contractual printing expenses was partly compensated for by the increase in income from the sale of publications. Some publications constituted an important source of income, particularly the statistical publications relating to commodity trade, which were used by private organizations as well as Governments. The proceeds from the sale of those publications were already considerable, and the use of computers would make it possible to increase their sales figures even more.

48. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the appropriation under section 11.

*The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 288) for an appropriation under section 11 in the amount of \$1,800,000 was approved on first reading by 78 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.