



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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/L.601/Rev.2 RELATING TO AGENDA ITEM 92* (A/C.5/1324)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1324) relating to the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/L.601/Rev.2 concerning the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly.

2. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the note by the Secretary-General.

3. Under operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request its President to establishing during its current session a special committee on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General estimated the related costs in 1971 at \$30,000 for pre-session documentation, summary records of plenary meetings of the committee and its report to the General Assembly, all in four languages. The costing had been done on the basis of external contractual translation and typing and of internal reproduction of documents. At the same time, the Secretary-General hoped that it would be possible to schedule the meetings of the committee and the translation of documentation so that the related costs could be covered wholly or partly by the appropriations already requested in the 1971 budget estimates.

4. The Advisory Committee had been informed that of the \$30,000, \$15,000 represented the cost of the summary records which the special committee would be authorized to maintain and circulate in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. In that connexion, the Advisory Committee had pointed out that, in paragraph 10 (b) of resolution 2538 (XXIV) on publications and documentation of the United Nations, the General Assembly had decided that verbatim or summary records shall not be provided for a newly established subsidiary body of the General Assembly—rule 60 of the rules of procedure of the

* Rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly.

Assembly notwithstanding—or for a special meeting or conference, unless they are specifically authorized in the enabling resolution.

5. The volume of pre-session documentation was estimated by the Secretary-General at a maximum of 200 pages. The Advisory Committee trusted that, in preparing that documentation, the Secretary-General would be guided by the provisions of paragraph 9 of resolution 2538 (XXIV), in which the General Assembly had suggested ways in which the volume of background documentation for conferences might be reduced.

6. In accordance with operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/L.601/Rev.2, the terms of reference of the special committee would be to study ways and means of improving the procedures and organization of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including the allocation of agenda items, the organization of work, documentation, rules of procedure and related questions, methods and practices, and to submit a report to the Assembly at the twenty-sixth session. In that connexion, the Advisory Committee had recalled that, in paragraph 15 of resolution 2609 (XXIV) on the pattern of conferences, the General Assembly had requested the Joint Inspection Unit to submit a report to it at its twenty-fifth session through the appropriate channel, setting forth its views on possible improvements in the system used by the United Nations in handling and processing documents before, during and after meetings, including sessions of the General Assembly, and in the organization of the proceedings at such meetings. In its report on its activities during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1970 (A/C.5/1304 and Corr.1, annex, para. 11) the Joint Inspection Unit had stated that the report requested of it in paragraph 15 of resolution 2609 (XXIV) would be prepared in time for its submission to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session. The Advisory Committee recommended that the inspectors' findings should be transmitted—albeit in preliminary form—to the special committee in time to enable the latter to take them into account in the preparation of its own work programme.

7. In the light of those considerations, the Advisory Committee suggested that, in its report to the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee might wish to echo the Secretary-General's expression of hope that the special committee's work could be so organized that the expenditure would be covered by the resources already included in the budget estimates for 1971 and to indicate that, on that basis, the adoption of the draft

resolution in question would not necessitate additional appropriations for the coming financial year.

8. The Fifth Committee might further wish to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions of Assembly resolution 2538 (XXIV) and to express the hope that it would be possible, in the circumstances, to reduce the volume of documentation—including summary records—to be produced for the special committee.

9. Lastly, the Fifth Committee might wish to draw attention to the provisions of paragraph 15 of resolution 2609 (XXIV) so as to ensure that the special committee would be kept informed in good time of the inspector's findings and conclusions.

10. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was quite convinced of the need for a review of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, including the allocation of agenda items, the organization of work, documentation, rules of procedure and related questions. Nevertheless, to the extent that such questions were already within the competence of the General Committee of the General Assembly, it was for the latter to consider and decide them. There would be no point in establishing for that purpose a special committee which could add nothing to what was done by the General Committee itself. His delegation wished to stress that point, which was of direct interest in the context of the decision which the Fifth Committee was called upon to take.

11. The additional expenditure of \$30,000 which the establishment of the special committee would entail was not justified. Although it could agree that the expenditure relating to the reproduction of the committee's documentation by the Secretariat was inevitable, his delegation considered the expenditure for external translation and typing of documents to be less acceptable since it could not understand why such work would have to be done under contract when there were translation sections within the Secretariat.

12. He also noted the Secretary-General's statement that, subject to the availability of Secretariat resources, it might be possible to carry out some or all of the work utilizing internal resources at lower costs or with no requirement for additional appropriations. What exactly was the situation? Would the Secretariat have to have the work done externally or could it undertake to do it itself? In principle, the Secretary-General should know whether or not the Secretariat had sufficient resources for the purpose; if it did, the amount of foreseeable expenditure could be less than \$30,000, quite apart from the fact that if the special committee met in New York it would presumably be possible to organize its meetings within the over-all programme of conferences.

13. It would have been preferable for the Fifth Committee to have a written report of the Advisory Committee before it on all those questions, and it was unfortunate that it had to be satisfied with oral comments in such a case. The Chairman of the Advisory Commit-

tee had stated that half of the provision represented the cost of maintaining summary records, and he had expressed the hope that pre-session documentation could be reduced. However, it was not clear whether the Advisory Committee wished the Fifth Committee to give its opinion on whether or not the proposed special committee should be authorized to maintain summary records. Similarly, the Advisory Committee's views on the extent to which pre-session documentation should be reduced were not known.

14. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee felt that the Fifth Committee should draw the General Assembly's attention to the fact that, in its resolution 2609 (XXIV), the Assembly had already requested the Joint Inspection Unit to submit a report setting forth its views on possible improvements in the system used by the United Nations, in other words, on the very question for which the establishment of a special committee was now being proposed; in his view, that constituted a further argument against the establishment of the special committee. Finally, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee suggested that the Fifth Committee should join in the Secretary-General's expression of hope that the anticipated work could be carried out with existing resources, with no requirement for additional appropriations. The Fifth Committee should not merely echo the Secretary-General's observations; its function was to make a specific recommendation, accompanied by figures, to the General Assembly and to indicate whether it felt that the anticipated expenditure was justified. In order to do that, the Fifth Committee had to know quite specifically whether the Advisory Committee felt that the establishment of the special committee would not entail additional expenditure or, alternatively, whether it felt that it would necessarily entail the expenditure anticipated by the Secretary-General, or that the expenditure should be reduced to \$15,000 or \$10,000. Neither the Secretary-General nor the Chairman of the Advisory Committee explained the situation in specific terms.

15. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Fifth Committee was considering the draft resolution in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure, which provided that "no resolution in respect of which expenditures were anticipated by the Secretary-General should be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee had had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations." The Fifth Committee was not called upon to decide on the substance of the proposal but only to determine its financial implications so as to enable the Assembly to take a decision on it.

16. Mr. KEENLEYSIDE (Canada) said that he, too, wished to observe that the Fifth Committee was not called upon to decide on the advisability of establishing the special committee or on the latter's terms of reference; its function was simply to indicate to the General Assembly the approximate amount of the expenditure which would have to be met if it was decided to establish that body. In that connexion, the Fifth Committee was aware that the anticipated expen-

diture could amount to a maximum of \$30,000; it was also aware that if certain conditions were fulfilled, the Secretariat could carry out some or all of the work in question at lower costs or with no requirement for additional appropriations. That was the information which had been provided to it by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and which it should simply transmit to the General Assembly.

17. The comments of the Soviet representative referred largely to matters which were not the concern of the Fifth Committee. The Soviet representative had expressed misgivings lest the special committee should encroach on the responsibilities of the General Committee of the General Assembly; there was no basis for his concern, since the recommendations of the special committee would be submitted to the Assembly through the General Committee. Turning to the Soviet representative's comments on the risks of overlapping and duplication of work between the special committee and the Joint Inspection Unit, he pointed out that the sponsors of the draft resolution had consulted with the Joint Inspection Unit on how that could be avoided, and it had been agreed that the committee would be informed of the results of the work of the Unit, which was to report on them at the twenty-sixth session. Those questions were the responsibility of the General Assembly and not the Fifth Committee.

18. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation supported the idea of establishing a special committee to review the procedures and organization of the General Assembly. However, his delegation, too, would like to have some information on the amount of the expenditure which would result for Member States. At the present stage, it was not clear whether the anticipated costs could be covered by existing resources or whether additional appropriations would be needed. The Secretariat should be able to determine whether it had the necessary resources to undertake some or all of the work; would they be sufficient to meet half of the expenditure, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee seemed to believe? The Fifth Committee needed more precise information on those points in order to be able, in its turn, to report to the Assembly on the financial implications of the draft resolution.

19. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) observed that the establishment of the special committee had financial implications because it had finally been proposed that that committee should be authorized to maintain and circulate summary records of its proceedings. The sponsors had originally thought that the provision might not be necessary and that informal records could be maintained by the various delegations represented on the committee and by the Secretariat; however, they had come to the conclusion that it would be better for all concerned to have authoritative official records available for reference purposes. The committee would be studying a matter of very general interest and importance, and the considerations which would underlie its recommendations should not be buried in the private records of the various delegations or in informal notes

in Secretariat files but should be available to all. In the short as well as in the longer term, the absence of summary records would be regretted.

20. In his statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General noted that it might be possible for the Secretariat to carry out some or all of the work relating to the special committee's documentation with no requirement for additional appropriations if its meetings could be scheduled within the over-all programme of meetings, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had just made a recommendation to that effect. The Fifth Committee must assume that maximum use would be made of Secretariat resources and that contractual translation and typing work would be kept to an absolute minimum.

21. In any case, there was nothing to prevent the Fifth Committee from taking a decision on the recommendation which it had to submit to the General Assembly, especially since the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had adequately stated how the financial implications of the proposal under consideration should be viewed.

22. Mr. CUBILLOS (Chile) considered it important for the special committee to be able to have summary records prepared as a means of enabling it and all others to refer to its work, the results of which might well affect the way in which questions relating to policy and economic development would be examined by the appropriate bodies. The special committee should be in a position, when submitting its report to the General Assembly at the twenty-sixth session, to back up its conclusions and recommendations by providing all the basic documentation it had used, including the summary records of its meetings, which would reflect the course of its deliberations and the points of view expressed by its members.

23. Like the representatives of Canada and New Zealand, he regarded the Fifth Committee as competent to formulate recommendations for the General Assembly and to inform it that the preparation of summary records would not involve expenditure such as would warrant depriving the special committee of them and compel it to confine the report of its deliberations to a record of the important questions which it had been asked to consider. The Fifth Committee was not required to consider the proposal in substance, but only to inform the General Assembly what expenditure the Organization would have to face if the draft resolution was adopted.

24. Mr. WOSCHNAGG (Austria) considered that the draft resolution in question, in the preparation of which his delegation had participated, had been submitted at an opportune moment. It was time for specific steps to be taken to rationalize the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, and his delegation was in favour of the establishment of a special committee to that end. It also felt that the preparation of summary records of the meetings of that committee would be essential, in view of the very nature of the task to

be entrusted to it; and fully shared the views of the representatives of Canada and Chile in that connexion.

25. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that under rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had two obligations: first, to inform the General Assembly of the expenditures involved in the implementation of draft resolutions which were submitted to it, and secondly, to indicate whether or not he was asking for additional appropriations. With regard to the special committee which it was proposed to set up, he pointed out that the Secretary-General hoped to be able to cover the expenditure involved in its work without having to ask for additional appropriations, in the expectation that the necessary work could be done without any recourse having to be had to translation and typing services outside the Secretariat.

26. Mr. MIGLIUOLO (Italy) thanked the Director of the Budget Division for his explanations. In view of the number of criticisms that had been made during the past few years concerning the methods of work and procedures of the General Assembly, it seemed important and urgent to review them in order to bring about improvements in them. The sponsors of the draft resolution concerning the establishment of a special committee on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly would do their utmost to help the Secretariat organize that committee's work in such a way as to avoid any additional expenditure. However, his delegation felt that even if further expenditure had to be faced, the task entrusted to the new committee was important enough to warrant a certain financial effort. The reason why the sponsors had asked that the committee be authorized to maintain summary records was so that delegations with few members could be kept informed of its work. Furthermore, assuming that it proved possible, thanks to the committee's efforts to improve the work procedures of the General Assembly, it was important to be able, through the summary records, to reconstitute the process whereby that result was achieved.

27. Mr. GUPTA (India) wholeheartedly endorsed the views expressed by the other sponsors of draft resolution A/L.601/Rev.2.

28. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) saw no reason why any problem of financing should arise in connexion with the special committee which it was proposed to establish. He unreservedly supported draft resolution A/L.601/Rev.2 for he felt sure that the special committee would enable the Organization to effect savings far exceeding the amount of expenditure which its establishment might involve.

29. Mr. ARBOLEDA (Colombia) said that his delegation recognized the importance of the special committee which it was proposed to set up, and that the doubts it had had concerning the need for the preparation of summary records had been dispelled in the course of the discussion.

30. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) renounced any intention of opening a debate on the substance of draft resolution A/L.601/Rev.2, since he knew very well that the matter would be considered in plenary meeting. The sponsors of the draft resolution had put forward interesting arguments, but he was surprised that the representative of Chile had considered it useful to introduce in his statement the question of economic development which had no bearing on the question at issue. He regretted that that demagogic argument was constantly invoked in the hope of obtaining the support of the developing countries.

31. The Director of the Budget Division had stated that under rule 154 of the rules of procedure the Fifth Committee had to inform the General Assembly of the financial implications of draft resolutions which would involve expenditure. He regretted that he had not yet received any precise information on that score. The representative of Italy had said that the task which would be entrusted to the special committee was extremely important, and that it might be necessary to open additional appropriations in order to enable it to accomplish that task. It was important for the Secretariat to know exactly what its responsibilities would be if the draft resolution was adopted. The Fifth Committee could not allow itself to leave matters unclear, and should specify in precise terms whether the work of the special committee could be effected within the limit of the available appropriations or whether new appropriations would have to be provided, and if so, what the amount would be. However small the sum in question, the Fifth Committee must show discipline and must give the Secretariat clear and precise indications. Only when the Fifth Committee approached its work from that angle would the budget be based on a sound foundation and would it be possible to dispense with requests for supplementary appropriations.

32. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) again pointed out that the Advisory Committee, after examining the report of the Secretary-General, had concluded that the Special Committee's work would not call for additional appropriations.

33. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should request the Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly directly, orally if necessary, that the estimated costs of pre-session and in-session documentation, including the summary records, and the final report of the special committee, would amount to \$30,000. Nevertheless, the Fifth Committee accepted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, namely that the Secretary-General should take steps to cope with that workload and meet the expenditure that the effective servicing of the meetings would entail, without submitting supplementary estimates. On that basis it would not be necessary to make a supplementary appropriation. The Rapporteur's report would also mention the suggestion of the Advisory Committee, which had been presented by its Chairman in his first statement on that subject in the course of the meeting.

34. Mr. MIGLIUOLO (Italy) was afraid that the interpretation of his remarks into Russian had not been entirely accurate. His delegation hoped that the establishment of the special committee would not entail any new expenditure of any kind, in so far as the Secretariat would be able to have the necessary work done by its existing staff. Even if the establishment of that committee did involve some expenditure, he believed it would be fully justified by the results that the committee's work would make possible.

35. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) pointed out that according to paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/1324, the financial implications of draft resolution A/L.601/Rev.2 would not exceed \$30,000. It was probable that the actual expenditure would fall short of that amount. His delegation endorsed the proposal of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee regarding the report to the General Assembly.

36. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) suggested to the Chairman that in his proposal regarding the report to be made to the General Assembly he should replace the words "would amount to \$30,000" by the words "would not exceed \$30,000", thus indicating that the expenditure in question might be less than that amount.

37. Mr. CONNOLLY (Ireland) thanked the Chairman for having previously referred to the provisions of rule 154 of the rules of procedure, for the task of the Fifth Committee was not to consider the substance of the draft resolution but to examine its financial implications. Questions of substance were examined in plenary meetings, and the Fifth Committee should be able to take a decision and to adopt the Chairman's conclusion.

38. The CHAIRMAN agreed to alter his proposal in the manner suggested by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

39. Mr. STOBY (Guyana) stated that his delegation would abstain if the Chairman's proposal was put to the vote, since that proposal was not logical. If the expenditure that the establishment of the new committee would entail could be met without having to make supplementary appropriations, it was obvious that the Advisory Committee had not recommended all the reductions that could be made in the budget.

40. The CHAIRMAN considered that, subject to the reservations and criticisms that had been made, the Fifth Committee accepted his proposal.

It was so decided.

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 and 2, A/8032, A/8033, A/8072, A/8122, A/8133, 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.5/1315, A/C.5/1317, A/C.5/1319, A/C.5/L.1041)

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

SECTION 15. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (A/8006, A/8008)

41. The CHAIRMAN said that in the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8006), the Secretary-General was submitting in section 15 estimates amounting to \$10,686,200. In its first report (A/8008, paragraph 308), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the amount should be reduced to \$10,431,800, a reduction of \$254,400. In his report on the joint UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre (A/C.5/1296), which were already included in the above-mentioned figures.

42. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that when the Advisory Committee had examined section 15 of the budget estimates, the date of the third session of UNCTAD had still been under discussion. Pending a decision on that subject the Secretary-General had submitted estimates amounting to \$10,686,200, which the Advisory Committee had recommended should be reduced to \$10,431,800, on the assumption that the session could be convened in 1971. Since then the session had been postponed until 1972. In his summary of total potential level currently envisaged for 1971 (A/C.5/1315, para. 22), the Secretary-General indicated that, as a result of that decision, the total appropriations necessary for UNCTAD in respect of 1971 could be reduced by \$879,000. On that basis, the Advisory Committee's recommendation would become \$9,552,800.

43. Moreover, certain decisions which had been adopted by the Trade and Development Board during the first part of its tenth session—held in August and September 1970—and which were to be approved by the General Assembly at the current session might have financial implications amounting to approximately \$230,000. All those figures had been calculated on the basis of the current salary scales for the Professional and higher categories.

44. In evaluating the personnel needs of UNCTAD for 1971, the Secretary-General had taken into account the results of the study carried out by the Administrative Management Service and its recommendations. The observations of the Advisory Committee on that subject were to be found in paragraphs 279 to 293 of its first report. The Advisory Committee had concluded that the number of permanent posts could be reduced by six—three Professional and higher posts and three general service posts—and that savings could be made in respect of consultants and temporary assistance. The Advisory Committee had been disturbed to note

* Resumed from the 1369th meeting.

that the proposed reorganization of UNCTAD would involve a substantial increase in the number of higher posts. In paragraph 295 of its report, it explained why it had thought it possible to recommend a reduction of the estimate submitted in respect of temporary assistance needed for the UNCTAD meetings.

45. In paragraphs 298 to 307 of its report, the Advisory Committee analysed the estimates of expenditure in respect of the International Trade Centre, which was financed jointly by UNCTAD and GATT. The Committee recommended that the ordinary budget of the Centre should be reduced by \$50,000, UNCTAD's share of the cost of the Centre being reduced by \$35,400 and GATT's share by the remainder. The Advisory Committee thought that savings could be made on the regular-budget staff of the Centre and on travel. At its last session, in October 1970, the GATT Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration had also concluded that the budget of the International Trade Centre could be reduced by \$50,000, but it had envisaged an apportionment of that reduction slightly different from that proposed by the Advisory Committee. The latter would examine the suggestions of the GATT Committee as soon as it received them.

46. The total amount of the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in section 15 amounted to \$254,400. The summary of the reductions recommended in the various chapters of that section could be found in paragraph 308 of the first report of the Advisory Committee.

47. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that the considerable progress made since the preceding year seemed to show that UNCTAD had now passed beyond the formative stage. It was to be hoped that the coming year would enable it to consolidate the results already achieved and to achieve further results. The present situation was not yet absolutely satisfactory, but UNCTAD had shown that it was not only a suitable forum for discussion but that it could achieve concrete results. At a time when the Second United Nations Development Decade was opening UNCTAD took on new importance, since it had an essential part to play in international development strategy.

48. New developments of the past twelve months included the recent decision by the Trade and Development Board to establish a system of generalized, non-discriminatory and non-reciprocal preferences. The establishment of such a system which had been envisaged from the time of the first UNCTAD session in 1964, would be a decisive step in the development of trade between the developed and developing countries, and should lead to true international co-operation. Where commodities were concerned, UNCTAD's efforts to conclude a cocoa agreement had so far met with failure, but there had been some positive results in that certain points had been cleared up, so that it could be hoped that the next Cocoa Conference, which was to be held in 1971, would lead to the conclusion of an agreement. Such an agreement would be of great

importance, not only for the cocoa-producing countries, but for all the members of UNCTAD. In addition, UNCTAD had negotiated a new agreement on tin, which would enter into force when the present agreement expired. During the past year, there had been a considerable growth in trade, both between developed and developing countries and between countries with different economic and social systems. There had been important developments in shipping, and the Committee on Shipping had recognized that the developing countries should participate more fully in the shipment of goods by developing their own merchant marines. Technical assistance activities had expanded considerably during the past year and could be expected to show an even greater increase in the years to come. With the participation of the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD had undertaken a \$3-million expanded technical assistance programme, one of whose purposes was to help the developing countries to increase their exports. UNCTAD attached particular importance to the problems of the least developed of the developing countries, and in 1971 it was to set up a special expert group to help those countries to remedy the lag in their development. The transfer of technology was a new field of activity for UNCTAD; it had been included in its terms of reference by the Trade and Development Board, which had recognized its competence and responsibility in that area. UNCTAD would not duplicate the work of other agencies which were already dealing with the transfer of technology; in co-operation with those agencies, it had carefully delineated the work assigned to it in such a way as to avoid any overlapping. An intergovernmental group had been established in connexion with the transfer of technology, and UNCTAD should be able to carry out its new task without neglecting its other responsibilities. It had to prepare for its third session on Trade and Development, to be held in April-May 1972, which would be a decisive phase in the strategy of the Second Development Decade.

49. He had been pleased that UNCTAD had been among the first of the United Nations organs to be surveyed by the Administrative Management Service. The survey, which had been carried out in 1969, had been very worthwhile since it had made it possible for UNCTAD to make certain administrative changes corresponding to its needs at its present stage of development. As a member of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat which had recommended the establishment of the Administrative Management Service,¹ he was well aware of the importance of that survey, and most of its findings had already been reflected in practical measures. The survey would in all probability make it possible for UNCTAD to make further changes in its management later on.

50. No increase in staff was planned for 1971, and by making certain sacrifices, the UNCTAD secretariat would endeavour to carry out its duties with its present staff. However, in order to do that, it would have to

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 74, document A/7359, annex, para. 63.

use a certain amount of latitude in the utilization of its resources.

51. According to the original estimates of expenditures prepared in the light of the Administrative Management Service survey, UNCTAD's budget should total \$10,686,200. After the deduction from that figure of the \$254,400 reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee and the \$879,000 reduction resulting from the postponement to 1972 of the third session of UNCTAD and the addition of the additional \$231,000 appropriation needed to finance the new activities requested by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its tenth session in September 1970, the revised 1971 estimate totalled \$9,783,800, which represented an increase of 9.8 per cent over the appropriation for 1970. Those figures did not include any increase in Professional salaries which might be decided by the General Assembly at its current session. Of that 9.8 per cent increase, 2 per cent was for the preparation of the third UNCTAD session, which the General Assembly was likely to postpone to 1972; another 5.3 per cent was chiefly taken up by an increase in staff costs based on established posts, and 2.3 per cent was for the activities of the International Trade Centre. Thus, the part of the increase actually available for increased activities of UNCTAD—consultants—not including the increase allocated for the International Trade Centre, was only 0.2 per cent of the total increase.

52. With regard to the budget of the International Trade Centre, the Advisory Committee had said, in paragraph 307 of its first report (A/8008), that it was convinced that the \$50,000 reduction it was recommending would not be detrimental to the work of the Centre, "bearing in mind *inter alia* that the extra-budgetary resources likely to be available to the Centre in 1971 are estimated at twice the size of its regular budget". In fact, as shown in annex B of the report on the budget estimates for the Centre (A/C.5/1296, annex), the extra-budgetary resources which were to be available to the Centre were estimated at \$3,370,000, or almost two and a half times the budgetary allocation for 1971. However, it should be remembered that Governments which made such generous contributions did not do so in order to permit a reduction in the Centre's budget but rather to contribute to the development of its activities. Care should be taken not to discourage them by reducing the budget.

53. In short, UNCTAD was being called on to undertake significant new tasks with a staff that was in total somewhat smaller than in 1970 and with a budget which devoted only 0.2 per cent of its total increase to new activities. He had been assured that, in those circumstances, the Secretary-General would administer the budget of UNCTAD with the maximum flexibility so that the funds appropriated under Section 15 could be used to further the trade and development of developing nations. He was confident that if the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly approved the revised amount requested for 1971 to cover the new activities requested by the Trade and Development Board at its tenth session, UNCTAD would be able to carry out effectively the task assigned to it.

54. Mr. GUPTA (India) said he thought that the statement made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should be published in full.

55. The CHAIRMAN said that since the Secretary-General of UNCTAD did not have a written text of his statement, it could not be published in full, but he assured the Indian representative that it would be recorded as faithfully as possible in the summary record of the meeting.

56. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his Government would not be able to take a position on the first reading of Section 15 of the budget estimates until the summary record of the statement of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had been issued.

57. The CHAIRMAN suggested, in view of what the representative of India had said, that the first reading of the estimates for Section 15 shall be postponed until the provisional summary record of the meeting had been issued in the various working languages.

58. Mr. STOBY (Guyana) said he would like the findings of the Administrative Management Service Survey on the staff of UNCTAD to be transmitted to the Committee.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, the list of speakers wishing to take part in the general discussion on the budget estimates for 1971 would be closed on 11 November at 6 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.