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Chairman: Mr. Najib BOUZIRI (Tunisia).

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, 1037, 1038; A/C.5/L.833, L.836)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. YOKOTA (Japan) expressed the hope that, as the General Assembly was now at last meeting again in normal circumstances after a year of tribulation and frustration, all members would co-operate in an effort to place the United Nations on a firm financial foundation. At the close of the nineteenth session of the Assembly, on 1 September 1965 (1331st plenary meeting), it had been agreed that Member States should make voluntary contributions to solve the Organization's financial difficulties. His Government had announced in the General Assembly (1339th plenary meeting) its readiness to make a contribution to that end, and hoped that all Member States would soon follow the example of Governments which had already made firm pledges.

2. The initial budget estimates of nearly \$117 million proposed by the Secretary-General for 1966 (A/6005) were 7.72 per cent higher than the figures recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for 1965, or 9.4 per cent

higher if the non-recurring items were deducted (see A/6007, para. 38). If the additional requirements for the anticipated revision of salary scales were included, as well as any expenditures that might arise out of decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its present session, total expenditure in 1966 might be as much as 11 per cent higher than in 1965. In 1966, too, the total amount which Member States were expected to contribute to the United Nations family of organizations was more than \$254 million, or 8.33 per cent higher than in 1965 (*ibid.*, table 1); and, if voluntary contributions to various programmes and operations and contributions to solve the financial difficulties of the United Nations were also taken into account, the total amount that the United Nations and the specialized agencies would be expecting Member States to contribute for 1966 would be well over \$600 million.

3. In drawing attention to those figures, his delegation did not wish to suggest that there should be a rigid limit to the budget, or that the activities of the Organization should be curtailed. In view of the pressing needs of the developing countries, and the other responsibilities which the United Nations had to assume, some increase in expenditure was inevitable. At the same time, however, available resources should be used as economically as possible, and his delegation fully endorsed the Advisory Committee's opinion that a policy of maximum economy, even if it were enforced by a budgetary ceiling, would not necessarily be inconsistent with the expressed desires of Member States for increased emphasis upon certain activities or the addition of new activities (A/5807, para. 44).

4. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General's initial estimates for 1966 should be reduced by about \$2.1 million. If that reduction were approved, expenditure in 1966 would be 5.74 per cent higher than 1965, still rather a sharp increase. But, since the additional expenditure had been requested largely for staff increases—particularly in the Centre for Industrial Development—and also to cover the requirements of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, his delegation wished to express its general support of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

5. There were at least five ways in which resources could be economized in the future. First, the General Assembly should give the most serious consideration to agenda item 78 (Pattern of conferences: reports of the Secretary-General), so as to ensure that the number of meetings held was kept to the minimum. The Secretary-General himself had stated that "the meetings programme as it has evolved for 1965 and as it is currently contemplated for 1966 is reaching unmanageable proportions" (A/6005, foreword,

para. 26), and more constructive results might be achieved with a less ambitious programme of meetings. Secondly, it was essential to make full use of conference facilities at Headquarters, with a view to relieving pressure on the European Office and avoiding the need to construct additional facilities there. Thirdly, since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1797 (XVII) there had been a growing awareness of the need for an integrated approach to programming and budgeting. Although the efforts made in that direction had not yet borne fruit, it was to be hoped that the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1093 (XXXIX) of 31 July 1965, on the work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields and its budgetary requirements, would produce some tangible results in the near future. Fourthly, there was an increasing need to co-ordinate the development work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies; and, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had pointed out (A/C.5/1038, para. 25), a prerequisite to effective co-ordination was comparability in programmes and budget presentation. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1090 D (XXXIX) of 31 July 1965 to call for a report listing the activities of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency in fields of interest to the Council, with an indication of the expenditures involved under both the regular budgets and the extra-budgetary programmes of the organizations concerned. It also welcomed the establishment of closer contacts between the Chairmen of the Advisory Committee, the Special Committee on Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Fifthly, as the Secretary-General had suggested, the General Assembly should remind members of subsidiary bodies of the need to conform to the established financial disciplines and rules of the Organization. In particular, it supported the suggestion made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (*ibid.*, para. 20) that the Fifth Committee should ask the President of the General Assembly to draw the attention of the other Main Committees to Financial Regulation 13.1 and rule 154 of the Assembly's rules of procedure.

6. Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN (United States of America) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the work done by all concerned in the preparation of the documents before the Committee. His delegation found it more difficult than in the past to formulate its position on the annual budget estimates. Its concern arose from several sources. First, the Secretary-General had stated (see A/C.5/1037) that for the first nine months of 1965 only about one half of the Organization's estimated 1965 expenses under the regular budget and the Special Account for UNEF had been covered by the advance payments received pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2004 (XIX). The Secretary-General had further pointed out that, of the approximately \$100 million which he estimated would be required to enable the United Nations to liquidate its past debts, restore the Working Capital Fund to its authorized level, and cover amounts due to Member States as adjustments on assessed contributions for UNEF and ONUC, to date only fifteen Member States

had made voluntary contributions totalling \$20 million. Those financial facts were extremely disturbing.

7. The second cause for his delegation's concern was the very significant increase in the 1966 budget estimates over the estimated expenditures for 1965. A large part of that increase was attributable to the fact that there was proposed for 1966 the largest staff increase in the history of the United Nations. Virtually every speaker to date had expressed concern at the magnitude of that increase and at its consequences.

8. In the circumstances, the estimates for 1966 must be screened with special care to ensure that all proposed expenditures were absolutely essential. In a number of areas of expenditure, his delegation must await further explanations from the Controller and his associates before taking a final position on them.

9. He would start by commenting on those items on which his delegation did not have reservations. To begin with there was the budget increase proposed for 1966 as a result of the recommendations made by the International Civil Service Advisory Board (ICSAB) for raising the professional salaries of employees of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Despite the generally reserved attitude which his delegation believed must now be taken towards proposed budgetary increases for 1966, it would support the recommendations of ICSAB—which it regarded as a single package—for the following reasons.

10. First, if the United Nations was to continue as an effective international instrument, it must have staff of the highest efficiency, competence and integrity. In order to ensure that, it was vitally necessary that staff members should be properly and fairly compensated. Secondly, the proposed salary increases had been recommended not only by ICSAB—a highly competent independent body established to deal with problems of that kind—but also by the Secretary-General and the heads of all the specialized agencies. The increases also had the approval of the Advisory Committee. Finally, the specialized agencies would undoubtedly be guided by the ICSAB recommendations in fixing salaries for their staffs, and it was essential that the common salary system adhered to by the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be preserved. Accordingly, the United States delegation was prepared to vote in favour of the budgetary increase proposed for professional salary adjustments.

11. For many of the same reasons, the United States was prepared to vote for the adjustments recommended by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (see A/6808, annex IV) and originally proposed at the nineteenth session.

12. One further matter to which his delegation gave its full support was the Advisory Committee's proposal for revised travel standards. The United States had established economy standards for all government travel and felt it essential for the United Nations to adopt a similar policy. Given the vast needs of Member States, it did not seem sensible to provide United Nations funds for luxury-class travel; the money proposed in the estimates for that non-productive expenditure could clearly be better spent.

13. His delegation also endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation to limit the conference programme. The available conference and supporting facilities were already overwhelmed, and, as the Secretary-General had stated, "curtailment is a real necessity" (A/6005, foreword, para. 26).

14. The major area of proposed expenditure giving rise to serious question was that of staff costs resulting from the proposed establishment of such a large number of new posts. There were also the questionable proposals for the upgrading of so many existing posts. On the matter of establishing new posts, his remarks were addressed only in small part to the Secretary-General. While there were several areas in which it appeared that the 1966 budget estimates went beyond the bounds of prudence and admitted unreasonable demands for expansion, his delegation nevertheless recognized that the Secretary-General had prepared those estimates on the basis of what Member States had asked, and indeed demanded, and that in many cases he had courageously pointed out the need for retrenchment.

15. As his delegation understood, the Secretary-General had requested in his 1966 budget estimates the establishment of 455 new posts, of which the Advisory Committee appeared to have approved 350. But those new posts were in addition to the established posts proposed by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee for 1965. Of the latter, 134 remained to be established, and it was intended to establish them in 1966 in addition to the 350 posts mentioned above. That would mean the establishment in 1966 of 484 new posts.

16. The Committee would probably be told that, while it was true that 134 posts recommended by the Advisory Committee for 1965 had not yet been established, nevertheless there were already individuals "on board" who were destined to fill those posts and who were presently being financed from temporary assistance funds. Thus, it might be said that the establishment of those 134 posts in 1966 should not be viewed as a net addition to the staff. His delegation would be interested in knowing what the actual situation was with reference to the employment on temporary assistance funds of individuals recruited for those posts. Whatever that situation might be, he noted that there was in the 1966 estimates an even larger amount of money (about \$2.5 million) for temporary assistance than had been contained in the original 1965 estimates. Thus, it would be sound to consider the 134 posts as a net addition to the staff if they were to be established in 1966.

17. The mere mention of the number of new posts intended to be established in 1966 should make it clear why his delegation was concerned about that feature of the budget estimates. Never before had a proposal of that magnitude been made. Furthermore, during 1965 the United Nations had continued to function with reasonable efficiency, despite the fact that only 66 of the 200 professional posts recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 3 (Salaries and wages) of the 1965 budget estimates had been established and filled during 1966. It was difficult to imagine, moreover, how so many posts could possibly be absorbed and integrated into the existing Secretariat

by the end of 1966. Such an influx of new staff would require so much of the attention of existing staff for briefing and training purposes that efficiency would undoubtedly suffer. There was the even more serious question as to the possibility of recruiting within one year such a large number of qualified staff. It seemed likely that the attempt would either fail or result in the hiring of individuals without adequate qualifications.

18. Thus, his delegation was far from convinced of the need for even those staff increases for 1966 recommended by the Advisory Committee. It would await further explanations from the representatives of the Secretary-General before taking a final position.

19. Furthermore, his delegation shared the misgivings of the Advisory Committee, set forth in paragraph 181 of its report (A/6007 and Corr.1), on the proposed reclassification of posts. While it would welcome further explanations from the representatives of the Secretary-General, his delegation was not at present prepared to go beyond the Advisory Committee's recommendation that only 50 per cent of the funds required for the proposed reclassifications should be approved.

20. This delegation would refer briefly to the proposal made by the representative of Argentina at the 1068th meeting for the removal from the expenditure section of the budget of section 12, chapter V, which provided for the financing of interest and principal due on United Nations bonds. His delegation was pleased to note that the proposal was not intended to prejudice the financial obligations represented by the bonds and that it did not envisage financing based on voluntary contributions. The General Assembly had authorized the sale of United Nations bonds in order to raise essential working capital and permit the Organization to meet its obligations. Sixty-four Governments had bought bonds for that purpose. Those bonds represented solemn obligations of the United Nations to repay those who had loaned money to it at a time of financial crisis. The United States Congress had authorized the purchase of those bonds on the clear understanding that they would be paid off in a normal and regular manner. Any attempt to alter their terms and the conditions of repayment would destroy the confidence of Governments and peoples in the financial integrity of the United Nations. While not now attempting to evaluate the Argentine proposal, his Government was not prepared to accept any proposal which would have such an effect, or lessen in any way the assurance that the bonds would be repaid.

21. Turning to the Organization's present critical financial situation, he recalled that on 31 August 1965, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had arrived at a consensus ^{1/} in the spirit of the proposal of the Afro-Asian group, which intended, inter alia, that the financial difficulties of the Organization should be solved through voluntary contributions by Member States, with the highly developed countries making substantial contributions. On 1 September 1965 the Special Committee's report ^{1/} had been adopted by the General Assembly at its 1331st

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, annex No. 21, document A/5916.

Plenary meeting. Accordingly, voluntary contributions should have been forthcoming promptly from appropriate quarters in sufficient magnitude to achieve solvency. Yet the sad fact was that no real progress had been made.

22. On 3 September 1965, the Secretary-General had announced that, of the \$100 million required to restore the solvency of the Organization, only \$18.4 million had been contributed. On 12 October, he had reported that only about \$1.6 million more had been contributed. Thus, about \$80 million must still be raised. Instead of improving, the financial situation had been worsening. Moreover, in statements to the Fifth Committee at the present session, several Member States had reiterated their past objections to making full contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations. That meant that the financial situation was continuing to deteriorate.

23. That state of affairs called for a sober appraisal on the part of all Members. Should the United Nations continue to go forward with new programmes—no matter how desirable—unless and until it could put its house in order? His delegation found it difficult to justify an affirmative answer.

24. The United States had paid considerably more than its share of all United Nations expenses ever since the Organization had been established, contributing almost \$2,500 million to the United Nations family of organizations in the past twenty years. It was clearly entitled to demand—as indeed were most Members—that the United Nations as a whole face up to the necessity of financing its existing obligations before it embarked on new endeavours. He hoped that in the near future the situation would so develop that the financial integrity of the United Nations would be restored. It was vitally important that the United Nations should once more be able to finance essential peace-keeping operations and important economic and social programmes. The United States had done its best. Now it was for others to assume their share of the burden.

25. Mr. MERON (Israel) noted that both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee took the view that the Organization's financial crisis could not be solved merely by reducing or stabilizing the regular budget, a view which his delegation shared. During the eighteenth session, his delegation had declared itself, at the 1022nd meeting of the Fifth Committee, willing to support the policy of consolidation and containment for 1964; but it had reserved its position regarding the adoption of that policy in the future, since it wished to see the United Nations respond to the growing demands made on it, particularly by the developing countries, and expand its activities in the economic and social fields. Such an expansion would necessarily entail some growth in the budget. Expansion, however, was no excuse for fragmentation, overlapping or waste of resources. To ensure the proper use of resources, there must be a continuing process of co-ordination. Co-ordination should begin inside the United Nations itself, as a necessary preliminary to inter-organizational co-ordination. The Advisory Committee's comments on various aspects of the problem were useful, but it was difficult to tell from its reports whether any progress had been made.

The Advisory Committee might consider the possibility of presenting an annual progress report on co-ordination under the agenda item concerning budget estimates for the following financial year, which could be submitted either as a chapter of the main report of the Advisory Committee or as a separate document.

26. The ability of the Fifth Committee to co-ordinate the Organization's activities at the administrative and budgetary level depended on the control it had over expenditure arising from decisions by other organs. In order that a measure of control over such decisions could be provided, Financial Regulations 13.1 and 13.2 and rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly had been adopted. Similar provisions concerning financial implications were to be found in the rules of procedure of some of the other United Nations organs. While such rules had brought about some improvement in the situation, they had not entirely achieved their basic objective. The Economic and Social Council and the Second and Third Committees had not given them more than cursory attention and had not established a meaningful order of priorities. Only the future would show whether Council resolution 1046 (XXXVII), providing that the Council should consider the work programme in relation to its budgetary implications, would lead to any real improvement. The reports submitted by the Secretary-General on the financial implications of draft resolutions were of necessity cautious. While the related reports of the Advisory Committee were usually more candid, those submitted by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly tended to be merely informative, indicating the effect of a proposal upon the budget estimates. With respect to the main budget estimates, however, the Committee was more willing to suggest changes. Both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee had drawn the Committee's attention to the growing trend for various organs to take decisions involving financial commitments for the current year which did not have the prior approval of the Assembly. In view of the foregoing, his delegation welcomed the suggestion by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (see A/C.5/1038, para. 19) that representatives of the Secretary-General in the subsidiary organs of the United Nations and committee secretaries should be more insistent in bringing administrative and financial rules to the attention of the members of those organs before decisions were taken. It also favoured his suggestion that the attention of the President of the General Assembly should be drawn to Financial Regulation 13.1 and rule 154 of the rules of procedure, so that reports on the estimated financial implications of decisions under consideration could be presented at an earlier stage.

27. Another important problem was the budget cycle. The present timing of the submission of budget estimates impaired the ability of the Committee to fulfil its co-ordinating role. The various subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council usually drew up their programmes for the following year piecemeal. Those programmes were considered by the Council only in July. Since the initial budget estimates of the United Nations were submitted to the Advisory Committee in May or June, an important

part of the over-all programme could not be forecast at that time. As a result, the Secretary-General had to submit revised estimates later in the year. Even they were not final, since supplementary estimates were submitted at the end of the year. The Advisory Committee had therefore recommended that all organs should consider the problem of the budget cycle carefully and that the Economic and Social Council in particular should review its entire programme and the schedule of meetings of its subsidiary organs with a view to ensuring that the whole programme for a given year was drawn up in time for inclusion in the main budget estimates. The Council's report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session^{2/} made it clear that it would not be a simple matter to advance its first session in each year to January and its summer session to May or early June, as suggested in General Assembly resolution 1987 (XVIII). The desirable objective would be to plan the Council's work programme several years ahead. He hoped that further progress could be achieved under Council resolutions 1046 (XXXVII), which requested the Secretary-General to study the possibility of presenting its programme on a biennial basis. He regretted the fact that the efforts made by the General Assembly through resolutions 1096 (XI) of 27 February 1957 and 1449 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 to keep to a minimum the number of requests for additional appropriations submitted after the Secretary-General had circulated his main budget estimates had not been fruitful.

28. Another major problem of co-ordination was the need for an integrated programme and budget policy, which was now widely recognized. There thus arose the question of the proper relationship between the Fifth Committee and the Second and Third Committees. He noted with satisfaction the comment made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (see A/C.5/1038, para. 28) that the discussions and decisions of the Fifth Committee should have a direct impact on the decisions of the General Assembly as a whole and of other United Nations bodies. He would like to see the development of some sort of dialogue between the Fifth Committee and the Second and Third Committees, such as had proved valuable in the past. Because of the concern expressed by many delegations at the inconsistency between the decisions of policy-making bodies and those of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 1797 (XVII) on integrated programme and budget policy. It was open to question whether the hopes expressed at that time regarding the possibility of further improvement had proved justified. He had noted with interest the developments that had taken place in the Economic and Social Council following the adoption of its resolution 1046 (XXXVII) and particularly the presentation by the Secretary-General to the Council of a document^{3/} setting out the United Nations work programme in the economic, social and human rights fields in relation to its budgetary implications. The Advisory Committee's suggestion (A/6007 and Corr.1, para. 79) about the possibility of a consolidated programme and budget presentation

^{2/} *Ibid.*, Nineteenth Session, Supplement No. 3, paras. 680-688.

^{3/} *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 35, documents E/4070 and Add.1.

and of a reappraisal of the budget presentation was also interesting. Certainly the present system of presentation was not the most conducive to a clearer relation of programmes to costs. A study of the budget format might be desirable, but it would be fraught with difficulties.

29. Israel noted with concern the Secretary-General's warning that the present annual programme of meetings and conferences had reached almost unmanageable proportions. That problem could be dealt with effectively only through better inter-organ co-ordination and a better understanding of administration and finance by the committees concerned with programmes. His delegation regretted that so little progress had so far been made in the establishment of priorities in the Organization's over-all programme of activities.

30. What could be done to improve over-all co-ordination in the United Nations? First, national co-ordination should be improved. It was essential that the representatives of a particular Government on different United Nations bodies should follow consistent policies and that those policies should be clearly formulated. It might be worth while to reaffirm, both in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council, some of the past resolutions on the subject. The Secretary-General might wish to consider whether his 1958 report on co-ordination on the national level^{4/} should not be brought up to date. Secondly, all United Nations organs should be made conscious of the need for co-ordination, and representatives should be made aware of the effects which their actions or failures to act had on the work of other bodies. Thirdly, flexible procedures should be developed in order to achieve inter-committee co-operation, particularly between the Fifth Committee and the Second and Third Committees. It was unlikely that the procedure of joint meetings would work in the present circumstances, but simpler procedures, not requiring changes in the rules of procedure, could be found. They could include the allocation of an item first to the Main Committee concerned for prior consideration and then to the Fifth Committee, or vice versa, as appropriate; exchanges of letters between committee Chairmen; co-operation between those Chairmen in the General Committee; and so on. The timing of the consideration of the relevant items by the committees concerned would have to be co-ordinated and the committees would have to be willing to postpone final action until the administrative and budgetary implications could be taken into account. Fourthly, both in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General should be encouraged, within the context of the present rules, to present as early as possible more substantive reports on problems involved in the adoption of proposed measures. Fifthly, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee might be invited to address organs of the United Nations concerned with programmes whenever administrative and budgetary advice was desirable.

31. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) agreed with previous speakers that the budget was increasing at an alarming rate.

^{4/} *Ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 3, document E/3107.

The major reasons for that increase had been stated by the representative of Ecuador at the 1070th meeting.

32. Believing that everything possible should be done to halt the increase, his delegation associated itself with the Advisory Committee's views on the reimbursement of travel expenses. Travel standards had greatly improved since 1946, when the principle of reimbursement had been laid down, and it seemed quite proper that the Committee should recommend economy-class travel for members of delegations and of the Secretariat. At the same time, he supported the proposal, put forward by the Nigerian representative at the 1070th meeting, that an exception should be made for the heads of delegations, who in most cases held ministerial rank.

33. Mr. BASNAYAKE (Ceylon) noted from the figures submitted by the Secretary-General that gross expenditure for 1966, taking all factors into account, might exceed \$120 million; and he thought that the constant upward trend in United Nations expenditure from year to year pointed to the need for a policy of consolidation and containment at the present time.

34. His country wished to see the Organization expand its activities in the economic, social and scientific spheres, as well as in the field of human rights; and those activities obviously could not be expanded without some increase in expenditure. Ceylon also fully acknowledged the need to take into account the continuing responsibilities of the United Nations for maintaining peace and security and for meeting the demands of the developing countries for technical and other assistance. But increased emphasis on current and any additional activities must be accompanied by a policy of maximum economy. The Secretariat, which was primarily responsible for preparing the budget estimates, should study every possibility of making savings without impairing the essentially dynamic nature of the United Nations or the efficiency, competence and integrity of the staff.

35. The most effective way of ensuring that expenditure was kept to the minimum was to rationalize the programme of meetings and conferences. The number of conferences at present scheduled was so great that the Secretariat was finding it extremely difficult to deal with the volume of work involved; resources could be economized if its activities were concentrated and its total work load thereby reduced. An order of priority should be established for meetings and conferences, as for all other United Nations activities. Meetings which were not absolutely essential should be postponed or cancelled altogether, while some conferences might be financed under cost-sharing arrangements with participating Member States. In every case, Member States should consider whether a proposed conference would really serve a useful purpose. There was no reason to hold annual sessions of subsidiary bodies in the future, merely because those bodies had met each year in the past. Greater restraint should be exercised in asking for the preparation of documents, since a proliferation of documents placed an unnecessary burden on Govern-

ments as well as on the Secretariat. If a rational conference programme were to be prepared, it might be desirable to fix a ceiling for appropriations under that heading.

36. His delegation approved of the budget estimates for 1966, with the various changes recommended by the Advisory Committee.

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

SECTION 1. TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES (continued) (A/5996, A/6005, A/6007 AND CORR.1; A/6050; A/C.5/1027, 1036)

37. Mr. ANCHETA (Malaysia) said that, where section 1 was concerned, the Committee should not allow to pass unexplored any possible means of saving money without sacrificing the efficiency of the Organization.

38. His delegation endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the 1966 budget estimates as a whole.

39. Mr. NKWAIN (Cameroon) supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning travel expenses. Any economy that could be made without reducing efficiency should be made. To set ceiling for the reimbursement of travel expenses at the economy-class level would have no effect on efficiency. If Governments wanted their Foreign Ministers to travel first class, they could pay the extra amount. The Committee should be looking for new ways of making economies rather than seeking to set aside the proposals already made.

40. Mr. CISS (Senegal) said that if the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning travel expenses was adopted, the estimated savings would be no more than \$167,000, a small sum in relation to the proposed increase of some \$8 million in the total budget. Travel costs, moreover, were a constant expense and would not account for any part of that increase. It would therefore seem more appropriate for the Committee to seek to economize on other items, such as the proposed staff increases and the excessive number of conferences. While he would not oppose a proposal which had won considerable support, he considered the Committee should respect countries' national legislation, which in the case of Senegal provided for first-class travel for ambassadors, and adhere to the policy followed in the past.

41. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) remarked that in the Hungarian foreign service only the Minister and persons accompanying him travelled first class. National standards, however, were no guide for United Nations policy. Economies had to be made somewhere. Foreign ministers and ambassadors travelled abroad a great deal and if their Governments could afford to pay first-class fares on other occasions, there was no reason why they should regard travel to the United Nations as a special case.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.