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 MEETING**

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

AGENDA ITEM 76

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Draft resolution submitted by France (continued)  
 (A/C.5/L.843/Rev.1)

1. Mr. WEI (China) said he would have liked to support the French draft resolution, which aimed at improving and streamlining the financial procedures and structures of the United Nations. The French initiative was in keeping with the objectives of the Fifth Committee, which endeavoured at all times to increase efficiency and strengthen co-operation within the United Nations family. Moreover, it was praiseworthy in that it reflected the majority opinion expressed in the course of the general discussion on the budget estimates for the financial year 1966.

2. His delegation was not convinced, however, that a cause and effect relationship must exist between the future budgetary policies of the United Nations and its appeals to Member States to solve its immediate financial difficulties. He hoped that the clarification made by the French representative at the 1102nd meeting would enable those difficulties to be terminated. With respect to the setting up of a new expert committee, his delegation, while admiring the sponsor's explanations, which seemed to have satisfied those who had thought that the draft had displayed a lack of confidence in the Secretary-

General and his staff, nevertheless found it difficult to draw a line of demarcation between the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the functions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, and the other organs of the General Assembly, as defined in the rules of procedure and the various resolutions of the Assembly. His delegation was not sure either that it would be practical to standardize the budgets of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in view of their differing activities and objectives, or that the experts on the Ad Hoc Committee would be more expert than the experts who were now dealing with the financial problems of the United Nations. Lastly, it was difficult to accept the idea of seeking improvement and achieving economy not by having more work done through the existing structure but by adding one more organ to the already unwieldy machinery of the United Nations. His delegation would therefore abstain on the French draft resolution.

3. Mr. VERRET (Haiti) supported the revised draft resolution as a whole, because it would introduce financial control and rationalize the activities of the United Nations family of organizations. The rationalization and standardization of the budgets of those organizations must not, however, be used to reduce aid to developing countries or to deprive the senior officials of the United Nations of the freedom of action they needed to cope with unforeseen situations. That reservation applied particularly to operative paragraph 6 (b) of the revised draft resolution. He would nevertheless vote for the draft resolution.

4. Mr. GIBSON (United Kingdom) remarked that his delegation had from the beginning supported the French initiative. His Government regarded it as a central principle of its policy to support the United Nations as the instrument for preserving peace in the world and for assisting the less favoured countries to achieve a better standard of living. It welcomed, therefore, the expansion of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies which had taken place over the past two decades, and looked forward to its continuance. Like many other delegations, however, his delegation believed that it was appropriate to undertake a comprehensive review of the financial and budgetary aspects of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to see whether, after so many years, that work was being conducted with due regard to those considerations of economy and efficiency by which the United Nations family should be guided and whether its resources were being utilized to the best possible effect. Such a review was proposed in

the revised draft resolution, which moreover allayed the apprehensions aroused by the earlier draft. He congratulated the French delegation on its consideration and helpfulness.

5. He agreed with other representatives that it would be unfortunate if the mandate proposed for the Ad Hoc Committee reopened the controversy regarding expenditure on peace-keeping operations. He referred to the consensus reached by the General Assembly on 1 September 1965 at its 1331st plenary meeting<sup>1</sup> and emphasized that under General Assembly resolution 2006 (XIX) the task of considering ways of overcoming the financial difficulties resulting from those operations had been entrusted to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. If anything further were required to supplement the consensus of 1 September, that would be a matter for the Special Committee. That fact was recognized in operative paragraph 6 (b) of the revised draft resolution and in the assurance given by the French representative. With that assurance, the United Kingdom delegation was able to support fully the French draft resolution.

6. Mr. RANDRIANASOLO (Madagascar) emphasized that if his delegation continued to support the French proposal to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, that did not mean any lack of confidence in the Secretary-General and his staff, the Advisory Committee and other United Nations organs. His delegation saw in the French initiative primarily a desire to rationalize the work of the United Nations and to breathe new life into the Organization. In drawing attention to Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter, the revised draft resolution constituted a timely reminder of the General Assembly's powers to co-ordinate the financing of all the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. His delegation naturally also favoured better co-ordination at the Government level. As many delegations had stressed, an exact and detailed analysis of the United Nations' finances would make it possible to avoid duplication and thus needless expense. The revised draft dispelled the doubts felt by some delegations. He paid a tribute to the sincere and constructive efforts made by the French delegation and said he would vote for the draft resolution.

7. Mr. WEIDINGER (Austria) remarked that the revised draft resolution would lead to a comprehensive examination of the budgetary and financial problems of the United Nations, the need for which had been stressed by all. The revised draft resolution took account of the views expressed by various delegations and there was no provision in it incompatible with any of the principles by which the Austrian delegation was guided.

8. His Government had to justify to Parliament and to the Austrian people the steadily increasing demand for credits to fulfil its obligations to the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Austria, which had always met its obligations scrupulously and contributed to many programmes outside the regular budget, was happy to do so only provided its contribution would be used to the best advantage and produce

results proportionate to the cost. The equilibrium between the funds contributed to the United Nations and its accomplishments had to be maintained, and duplication and lack of co-ordination which resulted in waste had to be avoided. His delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of a committee of experts with the terms of reference specified in the revised draft resolution. It also noted with satisfaction that the recommendations of that committee would be designed not to curtail United Nations activities, but to channel them in a more orderly manner. For that reason it found the French proposal particularly attractive.

9. His delegation fully endorsed the preambular provisions referring to Article 17, paragraph 3, of the Charter and emphasizing developing needs and the cost that Member States had to bear as a result of new activities, and the operative paragraph calling on the Secretary-General to draw up a balance-sheet of the finances of the United Nations. It should not be forgotten, however, that the draft resolution was primarily directed towards the future, and that there were problems which needed an early solution. The revised draft did not infringe on the consensus of 1 September 1965, and the analysis to be made by the Secretary-General and the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee could help to bring about a speedy solution of those urgent problems.

10. Mr. AGORSOR (Ghana) paid a tribute to the French delegation's understanding and helpful attitude, and noted with satisfaction that the revised draft resolution took into account the needs and interests of the developing countries; the statement of the French representative at the 1102nd meeting had dispelled any fears which delegations might have had. His delegation was now convinced that the French proposal did not seek to establish a ceiling or a rate of growth for the budget, but was designed, on the contrary, to allow a natural growth of the activities of the United Nations family of organizations, more particularly in the economic and social fields. It was glad to note that the Ad Hoc Committee would submit its recommendations without prejudice to the terms of reference of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, but would prefer the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee to be increased from twelve to fifteen. His delegation would vote for the French draft resolution, in the hope that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee would enable a sound basis to be established for the future budgetary policies of the United Nations family of organizations.

11. Mr. GREN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation fully appreciated the aims of the French delegation, and that it had in fact been prepared to vote in favour of the initial draft resolution. The revised text took into account the comments made by many delegations, and it seemed certain to have the support of the overwhelming majority. It should therefore be put to the vote without further delay. His delegation would vote for the revised draft resolution, in the hope that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee would help to standardize the financial practices of the various organizations and increase their efficiency.

<sup>1</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, annex No. 21, document A/5916.

12. Mr. NAÇO (Albania) said he would vote for the revised draft resolution, on the understanding that his vote in no way implied that Albania's position with regard to peace-keeping expenditures had changed. The Albanian Government had repeatedly had occasion to make it clear that it would never agree to contribute to such expenditures.

13. Mr. McCRAW (Secretariat), taking up the question of the financial implications of the French draft resolution, stated that, since the Ad Hoc Committee would be composed of representatives of Governments, the United Nations, under the terms of operative paragraph 2 (b) of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII), would pay neither travel nor subsistence expenses to the members of that committee when it met in New York. Also, in that event, the services the Committee would need could be provided by the regular staff and would not involve additional expenditure.

14. If the Ad Hoc Committee met away from Headquarters, the draft resolution might have financial implications for the Organization, should the General Assembly decide to apply the provisions of operative paragraph 3 (b) (iii) of its resolution 1798 (XVII). In such an event, the payment of travel and subsistence expenses to Headquarters staff who would have to travel in order to service the Ad Hoc Committee would also involve expenditure, estimated at about \$2,500, which could be covered out of the budget appropriations.

15. With regard to operative paragraph 4 (a) of the draft resolution, he stressed that the analysis of the finances of the United Nations to be drawn up by the Secretariat—since, fortunately, there was no question of drawing up a balance-sheet in the strict accounting sense—could relate only to the financial aspects of those activities in respect of which the Secretary-General had administrative and accounting responsibility. The members of the Fifth Committee should know, furthermore, that the Secretariat would not always be able to state the amounts which had in fact been spent on each type of activity, and that such an analysis of the Organization's finances must necessarily include some estimates. For example, in the case of UNEF and ONUC more than a year sometimes elapsed before Governments submitted requests for reimbursement in respect of troops or material they had supplied. The Secretariat would accordingly not necessarily have available at the required date all the necessary invoices and requests for reimbursement to enable it to provide Member States with an absolutely clear and accurate picture of the financial situation of the Organization, as called for in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

16. Where peace-keeping operations were concerned, it should be understood that the Secretariat would examine only those expenditures on peace-keeping operations which had been covered, partly or wholly, by the special contributions which the General Assembly had assessed for that purpose, in particular the expenditures on ONUC and UNEF, and that it would not take into account the cost of peace-keeping operations financed by the parties directly concerned,

such as, for example, that of the United Nations Yemen Observation Mission.

17. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) expressed satisfaction at the changes which the French delegation had made in its text, and said that the Guinean delegation had no objection to voting for the draft resolution now that the draft requested the Secretary-General to prepare the statement of the financial situation of the United Nations.

18. With regard to the financial implications of the draft resolution, the United Nations should certainly not be responsible for the cost of establishing the Ad Hoc Committee. It was for the members of that Committee to meet all the expenses arising from its activities.

19. His delegation wished to make it clear that its vote in favour of the draft resolution would be registered mainly on account of the provisions of operative paragraph 4 (a) and (b).

20. Mr. MWALUKO (United Republic of Tanzania) said he would vote for the draft resolution, because the new text, together with the statement of the French representative at the 1102nd meeting, had dispelled whatever doubts and fears his delegation might have had regarding the French proposal. It was now clear that the draft resolution did not, as might have been feared, call for any curtailment of the economic and social activities of the international organizations. Most important of all, the Ad Hoc Committee, which would be entrusted with putting the Organization's finances in order, would be able to draw up practical recommendations which should allow the whole of the activities of the United Nations family of organizations to be rationalized and consolidated, duplication and waste to be eliminated, and efficiency to be increased.

21. His delegation was particularly gratified to note that the Ad Hoc Committee would be invited to submit its recommendations to the General Assembly without prejudice to the terms of reference of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. Questions relating to peace-keeping operations would continue to be considered by the Special Committee, and it was to be hoped that the third part of the consensus reached by the General Assembly on 1 September 1965 would soon come to fruition. The payment of substantial voluntary contributions by those States whose financial situation was the most favourable would be the best way of helping the Special Committee in its work.

22. The United Republic of Tanzania would do all in its power to assist the Ad Hoc Committee—whose members would be chosen, as far as possible, on an equitable geographical basis—to achieve its objectives.

23. Mr. JIDDOU (Mauritania) thanked the French delegation for dispelling the doubts and apprehensions of the developing countries concerning the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate and its collaboration with the Secretary-General and also concerning the possible effects of the draft resolution on the economic and social activities of the United Nations family of organizations.

24. He noted with satisfaction that the third pre-ambular paragraph stressed development needs, and he had been particularly pleased to hear the French representative state emphatically that the French Government regarded credits directly allocated for the development of less favoured countries as undeniably useful.

25. The French delegation having allayed the fears which the draft resolution had aroused among the developing countries, he would vote for the revised text.

26. Mr. SERBANESCU (Romania) said that he would have had no difficulty in supporting the earlier text of the draft resolution and would vote for the text as revised by the French delegation in a commendable spirit of conciliation.

27. Mr. ABDI (Ethiopia) remarked that the statements by the French representative and the representative of the Secretary-General had laid to rest the misgivings of his delegation, which had felt at first that the draft resolution might be interpreted as indicating a lack of confidence in the Secretary-General and his staff. The French representative's statement and the revised text had also allayed his delegation's apprehensions with regard to the effects of the draft resolution on the further development of the activities of international organizations. It was now clear that the application of the draft resolution could only result in improving the economic and social activities of the international organizations.

28. It was highly significant that the timely draft resolution should have been submitted by France, one of the founding Members of the United Nations, one of the permanent members of the Security Council and a great European nation. It was also comforting to note that, contrary to what might have been thought, France continued to take a keen interest in the purposes of the United Nations and an active part in its work.

29. He hoped that, following the comprehensive examination of the finances of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to be made by the Ad Hoc Committee, the position of the United Nations as an instrument to keep the peace would be strengthened.

30. His delegation would vote for the revised draft resolution.

31. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) felt that the Committee should have a clear understanding of the financial implications before putting the draft resolution to the vote. It would be utterly illogical for a proposal of that kind to occasion additional expense. The formula suggested by the representative of the Secretary-General was acceptable to his delegation. The Ad Hoc Committee would naturally be free to organize its own work, but it should not meet elsewhere than in New York or Geneva, where it could have ample staff services at no extra cost. The matter could be easily settled by including a statement to that effect in the Fifth Committee's report and by adopting the proposal of the representative of the Secretary-General.

32. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) reiterated his delegation's support for the French draft resolution, on the understanding that it would be for the Secretary-General to decide when the Ad Hoc Committee should meet, once the members had been appointed.

33. Mr. MERON (Israel) supported what the representatives of Guinea and Argentina had said about the financial implications of the draft resolution. Referring to operative paragraph 3 (b) (iii) of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII), he said that the Fifth Committee's report should make it clear that in the mind of the draft resolution's sponsor, the sub-paragraph was not to be applied to the Ad Hoc Committee if it met away from United Nations Headquarters. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the modest cost that would be incurred as a result of the travel of Secretariat officials servicing the Committee at meetings held away from Headquarters could be met from the existing appropriations.

34. Mr. CISS (Senegal) said that while he was not against the French representative's suggestion, he considered that the possibility of financial implications if the Ad Hoc Committee met away from Headquarters should not be altogether ruled out.

35. Mr. CABRERA MUÑOZ-LEDO (Mexico) wholeheartedly supported the revised draft resolution, which largely met the view put forward by his delegation (1101st meeting). He felt that the travel costs and subsistence allowance of the experts should be borne by the Member States represented on the Ad Hoc Committee, on the understanding that costs for Secretariat staff servicing the Committee would be covered under the regular budget.

36. Mr. Ahmed ALI (Pakistan) welcomed the action taken by the French delegation, whose draft resolution allowed for the desires and needs of the developing countries and reflected the comments and suggestions that had been made. He would like some information, however, on the financial implications that the proposal might have for the United Nations and for Member States: sending experts to the Ad Hoc Committee and on the method of appointing and the number of such experts.

37. Mr. ABDI (Ethiopia), referring to operative paragraph 4 (b), asked exactly what period would be covered by the statement of the Organization's financial situation.

38. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the revised draft resolution submitted by France (A/C.5/L.843/Rev.1), as amended at the 1102nd meeting, the date shown in operative paragraph 4 (b) reading "30 September 1965" instead of "31 October 1965".

*The draft resolution was adopted by 92 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

39. Mr. SEYDOUX (France), replying to the delegations which had asked for information on the financial implications of the draft resolution, said that the explanations given by his delegation in its various statements should provide all the reassurance they desired. Referring to the question raised by the representative of Pakistan, he explained that the President of the General Assembly would designate the Member States which were to be represented on

the Ad Hoc Committee after consultation with the delegations concerned. If necessary, the experts sent by Governments could be accompanied by an assistant, on the understanding that there would be no extra cost to the United Nations. Replying to the representative of Ethiopia, he said that for peace-keeping operations the analysis requested from the Secretary-General would go back to the beginning of the operations, while for other expenses it would be drawn up as at 30 September 1965.

40. He thanked all the delegations and representatives of specialized agencies who, whether during informal consultations or during the Committee's debates, had

put forward constructive comments and suggestions, which had contributed much to the revised text of the draft resolution. His delegation was very grateful to the representative of the Secretary-General for the accurate and objective information he had provided and would ask him to convey its thanks to the Secretary-General. He paid a tribute to the Chairman for the way in which he had conducted the debates and repeated his delegation's appreciation of the kind words addressed to it, particularly by the representative of the United States of America, on the occasion of the launching of the Diamant rocket.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.