



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

AGENDA ITEM 77

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions (concluded)

Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (concluded) (A/C.5/L.1051)

1. Mr. TURNER (Controller) drew attention to the last sentence of paragraph 5 of the draft report of the Fifth Committee on the item (A/C.5/L.1051) and informed the Committee that the Government of Fiji was in the meantime intending to make a payment on account with respect to its 1970 contribution.

2. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee adopt the draft report as amended (see 1398th meeting).

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 to 4, 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 and Add.1, A/C.5/1303 and Add.1, A/C.5/1305, A/C.5/1307, A/C.5/1309, A/C.5/1310, A/C.5/1315 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1317, A/C.5/1319, A/C.5/1320 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1329, A/C.5/1331, A/C.5/1332, A/C.5/1333, A/C.5/L.1041, A/C.5/L.1049/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1053/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1055, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.7, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.9, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.14, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.16 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.17 to 23)

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

*Revised estimates (continued) * (A/8008/Add.4, A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1)*

SECTION 16. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (A/8006, A/8008 AND ADD.4, A/C.5/1322 AND CORR.1)

3. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions)

said that the revised estimate for UNIDO amounted to \$11,808,000 as compared with an appropriation of \$10,433,000 for 1970. The Advisory Committee had concurred in the revised estimate. UNIDO was one of the units which had been surveyed by the Administrative Management Service since the Advisory Committee had considered the initial estimates for 1971. The recommendations of the Administrative Management Service were described in paragraphs 46 to 52 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/8008/Add.4). The number of posts in the Professional and higher categories was to be increased by 11 and the posts in the General Service and manual worker categories was to be decreased by 11. The global establishment for 1971 would therefore be the same as for 1970. The increase of the revised estimates over the appropriation for 1970 was attributable almost entirely to extra staff costs. It should be noted that the revised estimates for 1971 did not include the financial implications of a possible General Assembly decision on salary scales for staff in the Professional and higher categories.

4. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) said that the Austrian Government in co-operation with the municipal authorities of the City of Vienna had organized a worldwide architectural competition for the establishment of the United Nations Centre in Vienna. By 30 June 1969, 272 designs had been submitted by architects from thirty-six countries. On 24 September 1969, the Chairman of the international jury, Mr. Pierre Vargo, had announced that four prize-winning designs had been chosen. In its final statement, the jury had indicated the positive and negative aspects of the four designs and stated that none of them was suitable for immediate execution in its original form. The four prize-winners had been asked to revise their designs in the light of the jury's comments and to provide detailed plans for the first building phase, comprising headquarters for IAEA and UNIDO, common services and an independent conference area. A committee of nine architectural experts, which had included a member of the United Nations Secretariat, had analysed the four projects and UNIDO and IAEA had submitted their views on their functional aspects. In order to reach a final decision in the matter, a special committee composed of the Austrian Federal Chancellor, who acted as Chairman, competent Cabinet ministers, representatives of the City of Vienna, the Director-General of IAEA and the Executive Director of UNIDO had been appointed in 1970. The representatives of UNIDO and IAEA had said that they would be able to state their views on the functional aspects of the plans at the beginning of December 1970. In view of the fact that the United Nations Centre in Vienna would have more usable space than United Nations Headquarters

* Resumed from the 1395th meeting.

in New York, the planning period for the project had been longer than anticipated. Nevertheless, it was hoped that a final decision would be reached in the near future and that permanent headquarters for UNIDO and IAEA could be completed by 1974-1975.

5. Turning to the question of the provisional headquarters for UNIDO, he said that the growth of the organization had made it necessary for the Austrian authorities to construct two additional buildings; the first should be finished by the beginning of 1971 and the second in the summer of 1972. Those buildings would ensure that UNIDO enjoyed excellent working conditions until it moved into its permanent headquarters. In April 1970, the Secretary-General had expressed satisfaction with the provisional headquarters provided for UNIDO and the plans for the United Nations Centre in Vienna.

6. The Austrian Government would do everything possible to create the best possible working conditions for the international organizations located in Vienna and the best possible living conditions for their staffs. By constructing the new premises for organizations of the United Nations system and by establishing a modern conference centre, his Government hoped to satisfy the needs of United Nations organizations in Vienna and to make additional conference facilities available to all organizations of the system. It was confident that in that way it would contribute to the peaceful development of the world.

7. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) suggested that the Committee should express its gratitude to the Austrian Government for supplying UNIDO with its existing headquarters and for undertaking to build a United Nations Centre in Vienna. Belgium had confidence in the role modern Austria played in international relations and realized that, owing to its situation in the heart of Europe, Vienna was ideally placed to provide the essential link between East and West. In view of the meticulous care which had gone into the preparation of Headquarters for IAEA and UNIDO, there was no reason why the Committee should not transmit a unanimous message of appreciation to the Austrian Government.

8. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) said that earlier in the year, his Government had been gratified to learn that the nine-member expert committee which had analysed the four projects mentioned by the Austrian representative had favoured the United Kingdom design by 8 votes to 1. It recognized that modifications might be necessary and that decisions on a project of such magnitude could not be taken overnight. The findings of the expert committee encouraged the hope that before long the United Kingdom blueprint would be translated into a functional building which would bear witness to the generosity of the Austrian Government and amply fulfil the needs of United Nations organizations in Vienna.

9. In conclusion, he extended his Government's thanks to the Austrian Government for the steps it had taken to enlarge the provisional building made

available to UNIDO pending the erection of its permanent headquarters.

10. Mr. ROCHESTER (Barbados) thanked the Austrian representative for the progress report he had given the Committee. It was clear that the Austrian authorities were endeavouring to carry out their responsibilities in the matter as expeditiously as possible.

11. Mr. NAUDY (France) associated his delegation with the appreciation expressed to the Austrian Government. The construction in Europe of a new United Nations Centre was bound to have very beneficial results.

12. Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic) thanked the Austrian representative for the very encouraging progress report he had made to the Committee.

13. Miss FORCIGNANO (Italy) congratulated the Austrian Government on the excellent work it was doing in Vienna for the United Nations Centre.

14. Mr. McGOUGH (Argentina) thanked the Austrian Government for all it was doing to help UNIDO, a very important part of the United Nations system of organizations.

15. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) suggested that in his report on the question, the Rapporteur should indicate that the Committee as a whole had expressed its appreciation to the Austrian Government.

It was so decided.

16. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) thanked the members of the Committee for their kind words of appreciation. His Government would do everything possible to fulfil its obligations and establish a centre which would satisfy all Members of the United Nations.

17. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana), referring to UNIDO's activities, said that his delegation welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had proposed the addition of five Professional posts in the Industrial Policies and Programming Division. Poverty and industrialization might be interrelated. The developing countries accounted for only 5 per cent of global industrial production while the industrialized countries, with only 18 per cent of the world's population, collected some 75 per cent of the world's income. It was in recognition of that fact and of the need to intensify the industrialization efforts of the developing countries that UNIDO had been established. To ensure that the organization's impact would be fully beneficial, overlap and duplication must be avoided. His delegation therefore agreed with the Administrative Management Service that there was a need to improve co-ordination between ECA and other units of the system, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD and UNIDO. It also endorsed the recommendations that ECA and UNIDO should explore the possibility of establishing a joint programme for industrial development in Africa and that measures be taken to integrate

better the work of the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division and that of FAO. His delegation was gratified that UNIDO had had consultations with several specialized agencies about industrialization. It urged the organization to continue and intensify those consultations with a view to overcoming the shortcomings emphasized by the Administrative Management Service.

18. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would be unable to support chapters III (Salaries and wages) and IV (Common staff costs) of section 16 because, whereas in his statement (A/C.5/1309) the Secretary-General had said that he would maintain the total level of staff resources for all offices and departments for 1971 at that approved for 1970, those chapters provided for an increase of 49 posts over the number approved for 1970. By converting all provisional posts approved for 1970 into permanent posts, provision had been made for an automatic increase in 1971. Such a transformation was tantamount to a concealed increase in the organization's staff and could not be supported by his delegation, which requested that separate votes be taken on chapters III and IV.

19. At the same time, his delegation approved of the activities of UNIDO, which was an organization which had won the confidence of the developing countries. Despite its objections to chapters III and IV, therefore, it would vote in favour of the expenditure under section 16 as a whole.

20. Mr. GUPTA (India) said that his delegation attached the highest importance to the work of UNIDO. Until such time as extra budgetary resources became available for it, UNIDO should be given maximum budgetary support.

21. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) asked whether the results of implementation of the Administrative Management Service's recommendations, particularly those relating to the Office of the Executive Director, had proved beneficial. His delegation would vote in favour of chapter III and of the expenditure under section 16 as a whole.

22. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division), referring to the statement made by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that the number of posts in chapter III for 1971 was higher than that for 1970 because there had been a redistribution of posts in UNIDO. Reference to table 16-4 of document A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1 would show that the total establishment for 1971 would amount to 732, the same number of posts as in 1970. To offset the increases in chapter III there had been decreases in chapter XI (Headquarters planning and administrative management).

23. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that in view of the role UNIDO would have to play in the industrialization of the developing countries and in achieving the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade, it was essential that the Fifth Committee should approve the revised estimates in full.

24. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked in which document the Committee could find the Administrative Management Service's recommendation that all provisional posts should be converted into permanent posts. If no such recommendation had been made, on what basis had the decision been taken?

25. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) said that the budgetary proposals made in document A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1 fully reflected the recommendations of the Administrative Management Service. The manning table included in the revised estimates was that proposed by that Service and accepted by the Executive Director of UNIDO.

26. Mr. STARK (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) confirmed that statement. He hoped that all representatives would realize that the Secretary-General had not authorized any blanket conversion of provisional posts into established posts. The system of provisional posts would apply only until each unit had been examined by the Administrative Management Service, which had made its surveys without any preconceptions about the size of the various units. In cases where provisional posts had become established posts, it was because the Service had satisfied the Secretary-General that they were necessary and should be included in his budget estimates.

27. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that apparently the Administrative Management Service had made no recommendation that provisional posts should become permanent ones. The General Assembly had approved provisional posts in the belief that they were necessary for special *ad hoc* programmes and would be abolished once the programmes had been completed. It seemed, however, that provisional posts were deliberately created as a means of increasing the manning tables of various units. All United Nations departments were adopting that procedure and documents were presented in such a way that delegations were never aware when provisional posts had been transformed into permanent posts.

28. Mr. STARK (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the concept adopted with regard to the introduction of provisional posts had been quite clear. It was to be hoped that the concept would disappear when the Administrative Management Service had completed its survey. Temporary assistance staff, however, was a separate factor; it was recruited for *ad hoc* tasks and released upon their completion. Provisional posts would either disappear or become part of the established manning tables. He drew attention to table 16-3 in paragraph 16.8 of document A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1, which indicated the net change involved in the establishment proposed under chapter III for 1971 as compared with 1970.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$7,732,000 under chapter III (Salaries and wages) of section 16 was

approved in first reading by 64 votes to 9, with 2 abstentions.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,930,000 under chapter IV (Common staff costs) of section 16 was approved in first reading by 65 votes to 9, with 2 abstentions.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$11,808,000 under section 16 as a whole was approved in first reading by 76 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

PART V (SECTIONS 13 and 14). TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES (A/8006, A/8008)

29. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the initial budget estimates for the financial year 1971 (A/8006), the Secretary-General had proposed under part V an amount of \$6,908,000, comprising \$5,408,000 under section 13 for programmes in the field of economic development, social development, public administration, human rights advisory services and narcotic drugs control and \$1,500,000 under section 14 for the programme in industrial development. The Advisory Committee had concurred in that estimate (see A/8008, paras. 268-272).

30. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2514 (XXIV), the programming and budgetary procedures contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1434 (XLVII) were now applied for the first time in the presentation of part V. In accordance with those new procedures, the estimates under section 13 represented targets for major fields of activity.

31. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation had always attached the utmost importance to part V, especially in the context of General Assembly resolution 2563 (XXIV) on the role of regional economic commissions in development planning during the Second United Nations Development Decade. His understanding was that the interdisciplinary advisory services provided for in that resolution would be financed under part V. Such advisory services were of particular value for the least developed of the developing countries and for States with small-scale economies in that, *inter alia*, they helped them to identify problems and to implement development plans. His delegation hoped the Committee would approve the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee.

32. Mr. KEENLEYSIDE (Canada) expressed his delegation's interest in and approval of the programmes before the Committee under part V.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$6,908,000 for part V as a whole was approved in first reading by 65 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.

33. Mr. TARASOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in explanation of vote, recalled that in his delegation's statement in the general discussion (1362nd meeting), it had given details of the considerable work done by his Government in providing economic and technical assistance to the developing countries. His delegation's negative vote on the expenditure under part V was based solely on its belief that it was incorrect to finance technical assistance activities from the regular budget which, under the Charter, should be used solely for administrative expenditure. His delegation's position of principle was that the regular programme of technical assistance should be excluded from the regular budget and merged with that of UNDP.

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (continued)* (A/8006, A/8008 AND ADD.1 AND 4, A/C.5/1302 AND ADD.1, A/C.5/1322 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.12, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23)

34. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the texts contained in documents A/C.5/XXV/CRP.12 and A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23, which were proposed for inclusion in the Fifth Committee's report.

35. Mr. STOBY (Guyana), on behalf of the sponsors introduced the draft paragraph contained in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23.[†]

36. During the general discussion, a number of delegations had expressed concern that the decision to continue the level of staff resources for all offices and departments for 1971 at the 1970 level should not impede the implementation of the United Nations work programme in the economic, social and human rights fields. That work programme had been scrutinized and approved, in the light of manpower requirements, by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and, for the first time, by the Economic and Social Council. His delegation had understood the Secretary-General's genuine concern with regard to the Organization's financial situation and the other reasons underlying his decision. It did feel, however, that the latter could result in the undue restriction of the Secretary-General's freedom of action in respect of manpower resources and the text which it was introducing was designed to afford him sufficient flexibility in implementing the work programme. It would be for the Secretary-General to decide whether the work programme could be implemented fully with existing resources but, should that prove impossible, the text would authorize him to request the Advisory Committee to authorize the necessary resources. The "additional manpower resources" referred to were essentially the additional provisional posts, indicated in tables 3-A-25, 3-A-27, 3-A-29 and 3-A-33, which the Secretary-General had requested in his initial budget estimates for 1971 (A/8006) but later decided not to fill. The reference to "posts for 1971 requested by the Secretary-General in document A/8006" included those posts not costed before the results of the survey undertaken by the Administrative Management Service

* Resumed from the 1395th meeting.

[†] For the text of this document, see A/8099, para. 88.

were available—namely, posts relating to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECA. It was assumed that, should the Secretary-General ask for additional posts, the requisite funding would be provided through supplementary appropriations for 1971.

37. Mr. GUPTA (India) noted that even though the Secretary-General had reduced his own initial estimates, the Advisory Committee concurred in the revised estimate for section 3. He was not quite sure that that should have been done. The budgetary policy of the United Nations had to be related to its substantive activities; the link between programming and budgetary policies was implicit in the definition of the objectives of the United Nations in the Preamble of the Charter. The Secretary-General himself had indicated that it was inappropriate to control growth in programmes through limitations in budgetary levels—a view endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 2617 (XXIV). Despite assurances that the quality, speed and direction of work already planned would be maintained despite the budgetary reduction, his delegation was somewhat confused by the manner in which the reduction had been made—unilaterally and as a last-minute move. Such an important decision should be subjected to the judgement of an intergovernmental body. Even after the revised estimates had been issued (A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1), unsympathetic critics could say that either the budget had not been prepared with adequate care or that programmes would certainly be affected adversely. His delegation had therefore joined the sponsors of the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23 as a counterweight to the reduction imposed by the Secretary-General. In arriving at his revised estimates, the Secretary-General had taken into account the application of an increased turnover deduction and an increase in the delayed recruitment deduction (see A/8008/Add.4, paras. 2 (e) and 39 (d)). Since the vacancy situation was improving and recruitment efforts were being intensified, his delegation felt that the inclusion of those factors could be interpreted as unsound budgetary practice.

38. For all those reasons, his delegation would abstain in the vote on section 3.

39. Mr. SELMECI (Hungary) said that his delegation had long shared the Advisory Committee's concern at what appeared to be the uncontrollable rate of growth in the regular budget and welcomed the Secretary-General's action to reduce the 1971 estimates. It conceded that some three-quarters of the increase was due to causes beyond the Secretariat's control—primarily inflation—and did not oppose increases due to programme expansion in the interest of Member States. Yet he wondered whether the increase over and above that caused by inflation and increased living costs was in fact due to the expansion of approved programmes. There were several indications to the contrary, particularly in section 3. The Advisory Committee had stated that it was not convinced of the need for additions to the permanent establishment on the scale requested by the Secretary-General and that it found it difficult to understand why the Secretary-General had deemed it necessary to seek such substan-

tial increases in the number of established and provisional posts. Apart from inflation, therefore, a main cause of the steady increase in the regular budget was the Secretariat's requests, year after year, for additional posts. Even with those posts, each budget provided sizable sums for consultants, experts and temporary assistants. It had been emphasized, however, that the Advisory Committee, and presumably the Fifth Committee, should not expect any substantial change in the level of staff resources pending the completion of the manpower utilization survey.

40. In paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1970,² it was indicated that 2 per cent of the projected 6 per cent increase in the budget was due to programme expansion and related activities. That 2 per cent expansion had been accompanied by requests for new posts which would have meant a 3.7 per cent increase in the total United Nations staff. Between 1968 and 1970 the staff had increased from 7,811 to 8,420—a 7.2 per cent increase. During the same period, programme expansion had been less than or approximately equivalent to 5 per cent. Furthermore, there had been an increase in provisional posts together with a doubling of actual expenditure for experts and consultants. Those ratios meant that the efficiency of the staff and the Organization had deteriorated even further. The decision to establish the Administrative Management Service to investigate the causes of budgetary increases which were not beyond the Secretariat's control had been timely; but the findings available to date did not indicate that the final outcome would be what had been expected. The Service had reviewed 2,800 posts in four major units and then recommended a reduction of eleven posts. That was all.

41. The welcome announcement by the Secretary-General that staff resources for 1971 would be continued at the 1970 level meant a saving of approximately \$7 million only in comparison with his initial estimates. If, to the total 1970 appropriation for section 3, the additional cost of continuing in 1971 the established and provisional posts approved for 1970 was added, the result was \$80,929,770. That figure was still \$1.2 million less than the revised estimates—which did not include the post adjustment due as of 1 December 1970 and the proposed increase in the salary scales.

42. His delegation opposed the use of reclassification as a means of increasing the salaries of the senior General service staff. In his opinion the reclassification of G-5 posts to Professional posts merely watered down the Professional category and was not a proper solution to the problem. Moreover, the ratio between G-5 and P-1 salaries had changed to the detriment of the former between 1957 and 1969. While in 1957 the average net pay of a G-5 in current prices had amounted to \$6,137 and that of P-1 to \$5,337, in 1969, on the other hand, the average net pay of the G-5 was \$8,621 and that of a P-1 \$8,667, or \$50 higher. He wondered why the proponents of the interim pay increase had changed

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6.*

the satisfactory ratio of 1957. His delegation felt that consideration should be given to the question of restoring the 1957 ratio. It should be possible to raise salaries within the General Service category so that the P-1 and P-2 levels would not be a mixture of senior General Service and junior Professional staff.

43. For those reasons, his delegation would not be able to vote for the appropriation requested under section 3.

44. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) supported the proposal in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23. The proposed paragraph was not only in conformity with the view of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination but would also give the Secretary-General sufficient flexibility in the recruitment of additional manpower, if necessary, to enable him to take consistent action to achieve the goals of the Second Development Decade.

45. Mr. CLELAND (Ghana), referring to the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23, of which his delegation was a sponsor, said that the freezing of the Secretariat posts at the 1970 level should not be so rigid as to preclude the expansion of certain sections at the expense of non-productive units, provided the over-all total remained the same. That approach was consistent with the position taken by the Advisory Committee, in particular on the question of the staffing of ECA (see A/8008/Add.4, para. 13). If the Second Development Decade was to result in the improvement of the level of living of the developing countries, the Secretary-General must be given sufficient flexibility so that budgetary limitations would not harm the work programme of the United Nations system.

46. Mr. McGOUGH (Argentina) said that his delegation supported the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23 and wished to be included among the sponsors.

47. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), recalling his delegation's statement in the general discussion (1362nd meeting), in which it had in particular drawn attention to the steady expansion of the Secretariat, noted that the 1971 budget estimates were no exception to that rule, except that the increase was particularly steep. As the revised estimates (A/C.5/1322 and Corr.1) showed, expenditure under section 3 in 1971 would exceed the 1970 level of expenditure by \$6,620,000, an amount which might be swelled still further by the end of the session when additional needs were taken into account. Moreover, that trend was apparent in all chapters of section 3. For example, expenditure under chapter I would increase by 7 per cent; under chapter II by 45 per cent; under chapter III by 27 per cent; under chapter IV by 15 per cent and under chapter V by 50 per cent, while expenditure under section 4 would increase by 7 per cent.

48. With regard to the question of provisional staffing requirements, he recalled that when, despite its doubts, the Advisory Committee had approved the Secretary-

General's proposal in 1970 to grant most of the funds he had requested for the establishment of provisional posts, it had done so for one year on the condition that all units should first use their existing established posts and that the Secretary-General should exercise strict control over the use of provisional staff. However, notwithstanding the fact that 83 established posts in the Secretariat had been vacant as of 30 April 1970, the Secretariat had recruited provisional staff in violation of its agreement with the Advisory Committee. Moreover, the use made of the allocations granted for provisional posts in 1970 did not reveal any overwhelming pressing need for such funds or the absence of any alternative method of solving the problem. In that connexion, according to the Secretary-General's report on supplementary estimates for 1970 (A/8083, para. 3.12), as of 30 September 1970, when the estimates had been prepared, of the 108 provisional Professional posts approved under chapter V, only 15 had been filled, while of the 138 approved General Service posts, only 92 had been filled.

49. Since the budget estimates for the financial year 1971 again proposed the allocation of funds for provisional posts, his delegation wondered whether the best course to take at the present juncture, when the level of the budget had reached unprecedented heights, might not be to draw attention to the unfilled posts rather than to plan for heavy expenditure on provisional posts which were not very widely used. Such a measure, which would have no adverse effect on the implementation of the work programme of the Organization, would make possible a more rational use of manpower resources. The illegal existence of the institution of provisional posts, which was not consistent with the Financial Rules, should be avoided because in practice it merely hampered the correct assessment of objectives and the manpower needed to achieve them. His delegation therefore proposed that, as a general rule, no allocation for the financing of provisional posts should be included in the 1971 budget.

50. All the posts which had been requested as provisional posts in the 1970 budget had now been converted to established posts in the offices surveyed by the Administrative Management Service, such as ECA and the Office of Conference Services. That trend merely contributed to the expansion of the Secretariat and augmented administrative costs at the expense of the work programme. His delegation accordingly proposed that no department should be expanded until all departments of the Secretariat had been surveyed by the Service.

51. The cumbersome structure of the Secretariat should be simplified in order to avoid duplication and ensure the most rational deployment of staff and the reduction of expenses. Unfortunately, so far no practical steps had been taken in that direction and expenditure under section 3 merely continued to increase. In his view, the only effective way of bringing order to the situation would be through strict financial regulation of the expenditure of the Secretariat and a strict approach to every question of supplementary appro-

priations. Unfortunately such an approach did not seem to be evident in the budget estimates for 1971.

52. Accordingly, his delegation would not be able to support chapters III and IV of section 3 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1971.

53. Mr. KHALIL (United Arab Republic), on behalf of the Arabic-speaking delegations, expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would take no action on the relocation of the Arabic Translation Section until he had ascertained their views.

54. Mr. COIDAN (Director of the Budget Division) assured the Committee that the Secretary-General was well aware of his responsibility for the implementation of the United Nations programme in the economic, social and human rights field and remained convinced that the measures he had proposed in his statement at the 1357th meeting (A/C.5/1309) would not jeopardize the execution of that programme. If the Committee adopted the proposal in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23, the Secretary-General would consider himself authorized, if unforeseen factors which might jeopardize the success of that programme arose, to apply to the Advisory Committee for funds to finance additional manpower in those sectors. His request would be limited to posts which he had requested in the original budget estimates and would be subject to the consent of the Advisory Committee. Before doing so, the Secretary-General would of course ensure that he had used all available funds to the fullest and that all existing vacancies had been used. On the basis of the information currently available, however, the Secretary-General could not anticipate any such contingency.

55. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) drew the attention of the sponsors of the proposal contained in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.23 to the fact that the only formal authority which the Advisory Committee had for approving requests for supplementary expenditure was the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses which the General Assembly adopted each year. He doubted that the inclusion of

the proposed paragraph in the Committee's report could supersede that authority.

56. Mr. STOBY (Guyana) said that the sponsors would consider the possibility of proposing an amendment to the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

57. Mr. DAO (Mali) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management for the assurance he had given, at the 1395th meeting, about his intentions concerning the status of the French Language Unit of OPI. That was an important matter to the French-speaking delegations because the impoverished status of the French language in the United Nations was a handicap to those delegations and reduced their effectiveness. He supported the proposal of the Tunisian representative: the chief of a section or division should not be able to abolish any French or other language posts on his own authority. His delegation accordingly supported the proposal in document A/C.5/XXV/CRP.12, of which it wished to become a sponsor.

Salary scales for the Professional and higher categories (continued) (A/8008/Add.3, A/C.5/1303 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.1049/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1053/Rev.1, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.7, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.9, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.11, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.14, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.16 and Add.1, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.17 to 22)

PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/C.5/L.1049/REV.1 AND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.5/L.1053/REV.1, A/C.5/XXV/CRP.14 AND A/C.5/XXV/CRP.16 AND ADD.1 (*continued*)

58. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the representative of Sudan had withdrawn the amendments (A/C.5/XXV/CRP.13) he had proposed to paragraph 58 (b) of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8008/Add.3), and had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/XXV/CRP.14.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.