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Chairman: Mr. Vahap AŞIROĞLU (Turkey).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Todorov (Bulgaria), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (continued) (A/6305, A/6307, A/6385, A/6457, A/C.5/1054, A/C.5/1055 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1056 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1060, A/C.5/1062, A/C.5/1065, A/C.5/1066, A/C.5/1074-1076, A/C.5/L.868, A/C.5/L.871)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. FERNANDEZ MAROTO (Spain) complimented the Secretariat on the clear presentation of the budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (A/6305). In particular, annex I, providing a distribution by main activity and programme, was a useful innovation. In that annex, column 14 of table A, giving the percentage of each main activity as a share of the gross budget, was particularly revealing. Such a breakdown would show the relative importance of the Organization's various activities in successive years. It was therefore important clearly to establish the functional categories and sub-categories of expenditure, so that the data for different years would be comparable. The analysis made in annex I, which was a first important step towards programme budgeting, should be continued in future, with any improvements which were found to be necessary. In addition, the budget should show actual as well as estimated expenditures.

2. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended a sizable reduction in the estimates. Although the Secretary-General had described the estimates as "conservative", the Spanish delegation was concerned about the appreciable net increase in expenditure and would examine carefully the increases in each section. It was essential to cut down the number of meetings and conferences and to reduce documentation costs and any expenditure which could be eliminated without prejudice to the Organization's activities to promote economic and social development.

3. Mr. CHULUUNBAATAR (Mongolia) said that he shared the concern of other delegations at the excessive

growth in expenditure. His delegation was not opposed to moderate budgetary growth necessitated by the expansion of activities, particularly in the economic and social spheres. Despite rapidly growing expenditures, however, the United Nations system was failing to produce the desired results.

4. The main reason for the high level of the 1967 estimates was excessive staff costs, which amounted to 60 per cent of the budget. Those costs could be reduced by simplifying the structure of the Secretariat, securing a more rational use of its resources, and eliminating superfluous departments. He reminded the Committee, in that connexion, of the USSR delegation's useful proposal (1122nd meeting) for the establishment of a reserve fund from which unforeseen or extraordinary measures might be financed.

5. He protested against the inclusion in the regular budget of appropriations in respect of illegal activities, and he regretted that the Secretariat had failed to take into account the objections expressed by many other delegations. It was unfortunate that neither the Advisory Committee nor the *Ad Hoc* Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies had proposed steps to eliminate such illegal expenses. His delegation took particular exception to the inclusion of appropriations in respect of the United Nations bond issue and various of the special missions—such as UNCURK—which had been established in violation of the United Nations Charter and which served no useful purpose. It would accordingly vote against sections 3 (Salaries and wages), 12 (Special expenses) and 16 (Special missions) and would be unable to support the 1967 estimates as a whole.

6. The *Ad Hoc* Committee had done valuable work and made a number of important recommendations whose implementation would undoubtedly bring about an improvement in administrative and financial procedures and a more effective use of resources. His delegation fully supported the recommendations in the *Ad Hoc* Committee's second report (A/6343) and had accordingly joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.873 and Add.1 and 2. He hoped that the General Assembly would approve the recommendations and ask the Secretary-General to report on their implementation to the twenty-second session. He welcomed the Secretary-General's assurance that the recommendations would be taken up with the least possible delay.

7. His delegation shared the general concern at the constantly growing number of conferences and meetings. Despite General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX), operative paragraph 5 of which stipulated that not more than one major conference should be scheduled

in any one year, several such conferences were planned for 1967. The cost of conferences and meetings was also rising, and accounted for one fifth of the 1967 estimates. The situation continued to deteriorate despite the best efforts of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. It was therefore for Member States to take the initiative in that sphere.

8. Mr. NYBØ (Norway) thought that the increase in the estimates for 1967 over those for 1966 was not proportionate to the upward trend in the activities of the United Nations. It was encouraging to note, however, that the Advisory Committee had proposed only slight reductions in the estimates and that the Secretary-General did not intend to contest them. The combined efforts of the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee ensured that the final budget would merit the confidence of all concerned.

9. The Norwegian Government regarded the United Nations as a dynamic organism which had expanded greatly and must continue to expand in order to respond to the ever-increasing demands placed upon it. It could not agree with those who advocated a limitation and even a reduction of the scope of United Nations activities, who wanted to appropriate funds solely for the operation of the Secretariat and who maintained that various programmes should be excluded from the regular budget. However, Members should carefully scrutinize the demands they made on the Organization and the financial implications of their proposals. In that connexion, Norway welcomed the idea of establishing a committee to deal with the programme of meetings (see A/6307, paras. 48-51).

10. The financial difficulties of the United Nations were due not to budgetary practices but to disagreement on the financing of peace-keeping operations. It was disappointing to note that the financial position had not improved during the past year; he appealed to Member States to help the United Nations to regain its financial strength by making substantial voluntary contributions. In that connexion, the work of the Ad Hoc Committee was very encouraging; it was to be hoped that many of its recommendations would be implemented without delay.

11. Mr. ANWARZAI (Afghanistan) expressed appreciation of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, which deserved careful consideration.

12. The continual expansion of the United Nations budget was placing a heavy financial burden on the small countries which were intent on promoting their economic and social development. The stabilization of the budget was therefore of primary importance, and efforts in that direction should be continued. The extraordinary expenses of the Organization should be reduced to a minimum without, however, impeding its social, economic and humanitarian activities. It was to be hoped that the current financial difficulties, which were jeopardizing the work of the United Nations, would be resolved by voluntary contributions. His delegation was in general agreement with the Advisory Committee's recommendations and would give its support to the budget estimates for 1967.

13. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) voiced concern about the excessive increase in the expenditures of the United Nations. The budget estimates for 1967 suffered from those very defects of principle and of procedure which had been severely criticized at previous sessions. They were based on the assumption that the expansion of United Nations activities automatically implied an increase in the volume of documentation, the number of meetings and conferences and the size of the Secretariat. Such an approach explained the fact that at the beginning of 1967 there would be 150 vacant posts in the professional category alone. The increase in expenditures was in a number of cases producing the desired results; the documentation was now so voluminous, for example, that study of it adequately and in time was very difficult. If the United Nations was to be able to perform its complex tasks, it must eliminate expenditures incurred in violation of the Charter, co-ordinate the activities of the different organs in its family, exercise maximum economy, evolve a sound system of priorities and basic guidelines for its activities and make greater use of as yet unexplored resources.

14. His delegation shared the concern reflected in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts "lest uncontrolled expansion and growth should render less effective the increased efforts Member States must be prepared to make in order to accelerate economic and social progress in the developing countries" (A/6343, para. 15). It supported the measures recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee and thought that the proposed inspection unit could be very useful. Paragraph 73 of the report contained an important recommendation on the development of an integrated system of long-term planning, programme formulation and budget preparation. The Special Committee on Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council, reorganized as suggested by the experts in paragraph 90 of the report, would be of great assistance in solving the problem of co-ordination. The Secretariat should also pay close attention to such questions as the standardization of nomenclature, the improvement of auditing methods, the location of services of the United Nations and the introduction of a biennial budget cycle. His delegation, one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.873 and Add.1 and 2, hoped that the report which the Secretary-General had been invited to submit on the implementation of the experts' recommendations would be ready before the opening of the twenty-second session of the General Assembly.

15. Unfortunately the Ad Hoc Committee had not made any recommendations on the exclusion of illegal expenditures from the United Nations budget. No provisions in the Charter or the financial regulations of the United Nations justified the inclusion in the regular budget of expenditure for servicing the bonds issued to cover the cost of operations in the Congo and the Middle East, or for UNCURK, UNTSO and the United Nations Field Service. The Byelorussian SSR would not contribute to those illegal expenses and would vote against the relevant sections of the budget estimates.

16. In the report on the collection of contributions as at 30 September 1966 (A/C.5/1064), the Secretariat

had inexplicably placed the first half of the contribution of the Byelorussian SSR for 1966 in the column listing contributions for prior years. His country had always met its legal financial obligations on time and in full. It had paid the remainder of its contribution for 1965 on 26 January 1966. He hoped that the Secretariat would correct the mistake contained in the report he had referred to.

17. The inclusion of expenditures for technical assistance in the regular budget was also unjustified and resulted in a needless increase in administrative expenses, fragmentation of resources and duplication of effort. In addition, it precluded the use of the specialists and resources of a number of countries, including the Byelorussian SSR. The socialist countries would continue to assist the developing countries in a spirit of internationalism, equality and mutually advantageous co-operation. In order to prevent discrimination against it in the matter of the provision of technical assistance, the Byelorussian SSR would in future pay in roubles that part of its contribution destined for part V (Technical programmes) of the regular budget.

18. Secretariat costs accounted for the bulk of the Organization's expenditure. In one year, expenses for salaries and wages were to rise by approximately \$4 million, without any increase in the number of established posts. The increased appropriation for temporary assistance, experts and consultants was clearly unnecessary at a time when there were a number of vacant posts and was contrary to the principle of equitable geographical distribution of Secretariat posts. That principle was still not being observed and citizens of Western countries occupied 70 per cent of the posts subject to geographical distribution. One way of improving the situation would be to abolish the system of permanent contracts; it would then be possible to make more flexible use of existing posts, improve the structure of the Secretariat and achieve significant savings. The time had come to simplify the cumbersome machinery of the Secretariat, to redistribute the staff among the various departments, to eliminate superfluous units and to reduce the number of general services staff. The General Assembly should be given regular information not only about the additional staff required for new programmes but also about the staff released as a result of the curtailment or elimination of earlier activities. The transfer of certain departments of the Secretariat to Geneva would considerably reduce staff travel costs and improve the servicing of the numerous conferences held at Geneva.

19. Despite the many resolutions of the General Assembly advocating budgetary stabilization, the 1967 budget for public information activities was about \$195,000 higher than for 1966, and those activities were no closer to being impartial. His delegation expressed concern about the proposed appropriation and drew attention to the observation on that subject made by the Advisory Committee (A/6307, para. 111).

20. The tendency to create autonomous organizational units within the Secretariat must be checked. It was augmenting expenses and complicating the administrative work of the Secretariat; and it had rightly

elicited a warning by the Secretary-General (A/6305, foreword, para. 20).

21. Mr. DeSOUZA (Jamaica) expressed his appreciation for the Secretariat's lucid presentation of the 1967 budget estimates, and particularly for the inclusion of annex I. The regular budget had not been rising as fast as some members of the Committee had implied. The average increase for the period 1954-1966 had been \$6 million per annum. In 1966 it had been about \$12 million, while the latest estimates showed an increase of \$6.7 million. His delegation did not consider those figures excessive or significant, but, rather, modest and normal. They reflected the rise in the cost of maintaining the existing staff, the greater requirements of an expanded membership, programmes of the United Nations Development Decade and new activities connected with disarmament, Non-Self-Governing Territories and outer space. While it was always a problem to reconcile demands for more activity with the desire to keep down financial obligations, there was no optimum level of expenditure or rate of growth that could be determined by financial considerations alone. A budget twice the present size would be conceivable if it provided for universally accepted programmes carried out efficiently. What mattered was to ensure that the best possible use was made of the available resources and that the highest standards of efficiency were maintained. That was the essence of the Fifth Committee's task.

22. The first report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/6289 and Add.1 and 2), together with the Organization's accounts as submitted by the Secretary-General, had helped to clarify the financial position. Now that the size of the deficit had been established more clearly, his delegation shared the concern expressed by others regarding the concept of collective financial responsibility for peace-keeping activities under the Charter. It also shared the Secretary-General's concern over the present situation. With the passing of time, the deficit would grow greater and steadily undermine the financial basis of the regular budget itself. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations had unfortunately been unable to reconcile the conflicting views on the respective responsibilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly for peace-keeping expenditure. His delegation's disappointment at that result led it to appeal to the small and middle-sized countries not merely to stand by and wait but to do all they could to influence the final decision of the two great Powers concerned in a direction which would strengthen the United Nations. It was to be hoped that those Powers, having made their point, would take steps to restore the Organization's solvency. His delegation was confident that all Member States would co-operate to that end, in keeping with the consensus reached by the General Assembly at the nineteenth session on 1 September 1965 (1331st plenary meeting).

23. As to the general composition of the budget, the allocation for human rights activities remained inadequate. The United Nations human rights programme should have an equal place with its programmes in the social and economic fields; but there was in fact a striking disparity in the appro-

priations for social and economic affairs and for human rights. Out of a gross expenditure of \$128 million proposed for 1967, only \$1.1 million, or less than 1 per cent, was allocated for human rights. While regional commissions had been established in the field of economics, human rights activities had been largely confined to Headquarters. There was no human rights commission for Africa, Asia or Latin America, nor was any serious expansion in human rights activities contemplated. It was a situation which deserved attention.

24. The Ad Hoc Committee had done the second part of its work very well, and its recommendations on the whole deserved the Committee's approval. His delegation had a few reservations about some of them, however, which it would state at the appropriate time.

25. A major preoccupation of the Ad Hoc Committee had been the problem of co-ordination. As the activities of the United Nations expanded—particularly its economic and social activities—over-all co-ordination and financial management naturally grew increasingly complex and difficult, especially since various responsibilities had been delegated to the specialized agencies and such institutions as UNCTAD and UNIDO. His delegation therefore considered that the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the functions entrusted to it under the Charter, must become the centre of co-ordination for the various programmes. It also believed that a clear distinction must be made between co-ordination at the executive level and at the policy level. The Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies had established a system of co-ordination at the executive level which worked satisfactorily, but co-ordination at the planning level was still rudimentary. It was time for the Economic and Social Council and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies to review and improve the machinery for such co-ordination.

26. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the dangers inherent in the creation of autonomous organizational units within the Secretariat and that the Advisory Committee had associated itself with the Secretary-General's remarks. A decentralization of the Secretariat would inevitably result in lower efficiency and higher costs. The Economic and Social Council should not surrender its responsibility in that connexion.

27. As to the question of staff, no new established posts were requested under section 3, nor was any post reclassification sought. His delegation, however, was not impressed by the argument that the non-reclassification of posts was justified by the need for economy. The Secretariat should be in a position to hire the best talent in the world. If salary scales were frozen for too long, it might fail to attract the excellent and lose the competent. He understood that a new classification and review of salary scales awaited the results of further studies being carried out by the International Civil Service Advisory Board and he hoped that the Board's findings would not be much longer delayed.

28. The problems to which the proliferation of conferences gave rise in the Secretariat were well known. His delegation did not agree, however, that more meetings were being held than was necessary. Conferences were the natural mode of negotiation of an international body. If it was agreed, however, that the number of meetings and conferences was too great for the facilities available, priorities must be established by the General Assembly itself. It had indicated its intention to do so in its resolution 2116 (XX). The Secretary-General had been asked to submit annually to the Assembly a basic programme of conferences, on which it would take action in the light of his suggestions. It was the Committee's duty to examine the Secretary-General's programme in consultation with him and put definite proposals to the Assembly for limiting the growth of meetings and conferences. His delegation was grateful for the assurances given that despite cuts in the estimates, thorough preparations would be made for conferences already approved.

29. Mr. ÇOMO (Albania) said that his delegation had in the past drawn attention to the dangers of allowing the budget to increase year after year. At the current session the Committee was again confronted with an increase in the budget estimates of \$6.7 million over that for 1966, and it would be still greater if allowance was made for non-recurrent items. That alarming trend was due in large part to the policies followed by the United States of America or two or three other great Powers acting together, which had involved the United Nations in activities contrary to the Charter. The paralysis at the nineteenth session had been a direct result of the aggressive actions of imperialists and colonialists, especially the United States. His delegation accordingly did not recognize any provision connected with the United Nations bond issue and would not share in the costs involved neither through voluntary contributions nor in any other way.

30. Despite the increase in the Organization's membership, the contributions sought from small developing countries had risen, and so had their contributions to the specialized agencies. Rising costs in New York also increased the expense of maintaining missions there. It was time to take urgent measures to reduce the contributions of the small countries for their possibilities in regard to currencies were greatly limited compared to those of the big countries. The increase in the 1967 estimates for general expenses, staff costs, and conferences and meetings were particularly significant. The budget was also swollen by the inclusion of allocations for activities which violated the Charter, such as special missions and the United Nations Field Service, which his country had no intention of paying for. Where technical assistance was concerned, Albania considered that contributions should be voluntary and payable in national currencies. If, therefore, illegal and inappropriate items were excluded from the budget, if the most efficient possible use were made of staff and resources and if the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee were put into effect, it should be possible to make sizable cuts in the budget. Administrative expenses might be reduced by strengthening financial discipline and control,

and possibly by reducing the size of the Secretariat, which was huge and consisted mainly of United States citizens. In recruiting staff, the Secretariat should observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution, at present disregarded. His delegation supported the legitimate demand of African countries for greater representation in the Secretariat.

31. As to the allocation of \$150,000 sought by the Secretary-General for a survey in connexion with a possible expansion of accommodation at Headquarters (A/C.5/1062), he agreed with previous speakers that the proposal was contrary to the Organization's interests. The point was not whether the Secretariat needed extra space, but whether New York was a desirable location for United Nations Headquarters. The United States had not only failed to establish good conditions for delegations to work in, but subjected them to intolerable discriminatory measures which were contrary to the Charter. Many examples could be cited showing how the United States Government hampered the work of United Nations organs and prevented the normal functioning of the permanent missions to the United Nations. Reference could be made to the United States position in the Fourth Committee at the eighteenth session (1475th meeting) on the question of the petitioner Galvão and to the recent intrusion into the Permanent Mission of Syria in violation of diplomatic immunities and the Headquarters Agreement. Representatives of African and Asian countries were exposed to racial and political discrimination, which sometimes went as far as physical assault. The United States used its position as host country to engage in propaganda for its own views and to block information on the policies of States which did not agree with it. There were also financial, fiscal and other factors which had been mentioned by other delegations. Albania therefore considered that the time had come to consider the possibility of transferring the United Nations Headquarters to another country. It would therefore oppose the proposed allocation of \$150,000. Moreover, if the observations he had just made were not taken into consideration, his delegation would not be in a position to support the budget estimates for the financial year 1967.

32. Mr. TAMBALA (Malawi) stated that his country, like other small and developing countries, did not find it easy to meet its international obligations. It was therefore concerned about the establishment of additional machinery in the United Nations. While it welcomed the creation of new bodies if their purpose was to fill a gap, it took great exception if their functions overlapped those of existing bodies. It would therefore like to see a streamlining of the United Nations system. It fully agreed with the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/6343), and particularly with chapter IX, which recommended rationalization of conferences, meetings and documentation. The funds spent on conferences could be better used for economic development. Regarding the Secretariat, his delegation agreed with the views expressed by the USSR delegation. All technological advances should be taken advantage of in order to reduce the cost of the Secretariat's work. Every effort should therefore be made to cut down

the number of manual workers, where that would not reduce the Organization's efficiency. In general, his delegation supported any action that would improve the functioning of the United Nations. It would continue to support any financial increases as long as they represented an equivalent increase in services to Member States. Its position on limiting expenses did not mean that it favoured reducing financial and technical assistance to the developing countries. On the contrary, it considered that such assistance should be increased and welcomed the creation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. It was merely opposed to any rash creation of new bodies without a precise study of the financial and operational implications.

33. Mr. EL GOUSI (Sudan) paid a tribute to the Secretary-General and his staff for their clear presentation of the budget estimates and to the Advisory Committee for its analysis and recommendations. Taking into account the revised estimates, the budget for 1967 represented a considerable increase over the previous years, which would add to the burden on the resources of small developing countries and to the pressure on their foreign exchange reserves. Since the work of the United Nations was for the good of all mankind, however, his country was willing to make the sacrifice asked of it.

34. As the Secretary-General indicated in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization,^{1/} in more than 100 countries there were hundreds of millions of people suffering from a poverty of economic, physical and intellectual development. Aid under the technical assistance programmes was one of the main means by which they could supplement their own resources and maintain the rate of development necessary to meet essential needs. The development of the less privileged was not beneficial only to them, but to the world community as a whole. His delegation therefore hoped that the estimates for technical assistance programmes would not be reduced and that efforts would be made to secure more funds.

35. His delegation shared the view expressed by the delegation of Jordan at the 1129th meeting that the Committee should not be overhasty in authorizing the survey relating to accommodation at Headquarters proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1062) and the proposal should be reviewed in the light of the statement made by the representative of Saudi Arabia at the 1127th meeting of the Committee.

36. As regards the Organization's financial situation, his delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's view (A/C.5/1065, para. 11) that unless there were substantially larger payments than now anticipated or unless additional voluntary contributions were forthcoming, there could be little prospect of reducing the Organization's debts and 1967 would see a renewal of past financial difficulties. His delegation would urge Member States to make greater efforts to fulfil their commitments, since if they did not the problem would never be solved and the United Nations would be paralysed.

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 1A, p. 8.

37. The establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee had been a great achievement and his delegation fully supported its recommendations, particularly those on the creation of a common panel of external auditors and a joint inspection unit. It was pleased with the draft resolution that the Fifth Committee had adopted (A/C.5/L.873 and Add.1 and 2).

38. Mr. BEN AISSA (Tunisia) thanked the Secretary-General for the clarity and comprehensiveness of the 1967 budget estimates, which would facilitate the Committee's task of ensuring that the growth of the Organization's budget did not proceed in an uncontrolled manner. He also thanked the Advisory Committee for its wise counsels, and paid a tribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts. The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, if seriously applied, could render the activities of the United Nations system more effective, and his delegation had accordingly been one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.873 and Add.1 and 2.

39. The budget estimates for 1967 were about 7 per cent higher than those for 1966. That increase, which his delegation did not regard as excessive, was mainly due to the factors listed by the Secretary-General in document A/6289/Add.2. Much of the increase, however, fell under section 3 (Salaries and wages) and sections 2 (Special meetings and conferences) and 20 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

40. His delegation was pleased at the presentation of the 1967 estimates, and in particular welcomed the new annex I.

41. It was gratifying to see that economic, social and human rights activities accounted for over 40 per cent of the estimates, in response to the needs of Member States. However, a large part of the funds requested for those activities continued to be spent on administrative costs. In future a greater share should be devoted to operational activities. Administrative costs could be kept down by avoiding duplication and improving co-ordination. The Ad Hoc Committee had made a number of recommendations on budgetary standardization and the planning and evaluation of programmes throughout the United Nations system; his delegation supported those recommendations. The adoption by the specialized agencies of a biennial budget cycle and a standard financial system would be an important step towards co-ordinated programming. However, there was no need for the United Nations itself to adopt a biennial cycle.

42. He was glad to see that no new posts were requested under section 3 and that no provision was made for the reclassification of posts. The increase under section 3 was thus the result of decisions taken at the twentieth session concerning salary increases, which his delegation had supported in the belief that international civil servants must be properly remunerated. His delegation would have wished that the distribution of established posts given in annex III of the budget estimates had included geographical area and linguistic group as well as category and post level. The same applied to table C of annex II, relating to public information programmes and related expenses. His delegation agreed

with the Secretary-General's views on the public information services, which had an important role to play in keeping the world informed of the Organization's work. The General Assembly should bear that in mind when fixing the ceiling for public information expenditure. It was curious that the policy of budgetary stabilization had led to the disappearance of the French-language information services at the very moment when French-speaking Member States were becoming more numerous; that measure should be reconsidered.

43. His delegation supported the appropriation requested for section 20 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) for the second session of the Conference, whose work was of the utmost importance. But it shared the general concern at the constant increase in the number of conferences and meetings. It was clear from section 2 (Special meetings and conferences) that General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX) on the pattern of conferences had not yet made itself felt. That was because the resolution was so recent, and also because the stipulation that "not more than one major special conference" should be scheduled in any one year did not offer sufficient guidance. For example, three conferences were recommended for 1968: on human rights, on social welfare and on the law of treaties. All three were "major" and "special". Must one only of those conferences be held, and if so, which one? It was clear that resolution 2116 (XX) must be applied with some flexibility. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a sub-committee of the General Assembly to rationalize the programme of meetings. Moreover, the representatives of the Secretary-General in the various bodies should remind delegations of the resolution on the pattern of conferences, whenever a new conference was contemplated.

44. He supported the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee and of the Advisory Committee on the related problem of documentation. An added difficulty for French-speaking delegations was the frequent delay in the circulation of documents in French and he hoped that the Secretary-General would take steps to correct the situation.

45. His delegation shared the Secretary-General's concern at the persistence of the difficulties that had paralysed the work of the General Assembly at its nineteenth session, and appealed to those States that had not yet done so to make their contributions, so that the United Nations might be placed on a sound financial footing.

46. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he would refrain from refuting the usual inaccuracies and distortions of the Albanian representative. The Committee would doubtless recall that the position taken by the Albanian delegation at the nineteenth session had received virtually no support.

47. There still appeared to be a genuine misunderstanding about the unfortunate incident at the Permanent Mission of Syria to the United Nations. The facts were as follows. At about 12 noon on 14 October 1966, a group of youths had arrived

at the Mission and pushed past the receptionist; they had entered the office of the Ambassador and refused to leave. The receptionist had notified the building authorities, who in turn had called the police. At about 12.18 p.m. a member of the Syrian Mission had notified the United States Mission, which had also called the police. The police had arrived at 12.25 p.m. Pending the arrival of police vans, the demonstrators had been removed from the Ambassador's office and detained in the corridor. As soon as the vans had arrived the demonstrators had been taken to Court, where the Permanent Representative of the United States, Ambassador Goldberg, himself had signed the complaint. There had thus been no delay, and no property damage. Mr. Goldberg had explained the situation in the Security Council, expressed regret for what had occurred, and had given an assurance that the United States Government would continue, as in the past, to act in accordance with its obligations as the host Government. The United States Mission had always responded promptly

and unquestioningly to all complaints or calls for assistance, as the representative of Saudi Arabia had conceded at the 1127th meeting of the Fifth Committee. The Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations, which brought together members of various Permanent Missions and the United States Government and the Secretary-General, met periodically to hear bona fide complaints. Thus steps were being taken to ensure that host country relations were as good as it was possible to make them.

48. Mr. ÇOMO (Albania) rejected the United States representative's attempts to justify his position and distort facts which were well known to all. He reserved the right to reply to the statement by the representative of the United States, if he should consider it necessary.

49. Mr. OMRAN (Syria) reserved his delegation's right to comment on the United States representative's remarks.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.