



CONTENTS

Agenda items 12 and 79: <i>Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I and XIV) (concluded)</i> <i>Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (concluded)</i> <i>Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly</i>	285
Agenda item 82: <i>Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (concluded)</i> <i>Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly</i>	285
Agenda item 75: <i>Pattern of conferences: report of the Secretary-General</i>	285
Agenda item 74: <i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (continued)</i> <i>Revised estimates resulting from the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2145 (XXI) on the question of South West Africa</i> <i>Revised estimates resulting from the admission of new Members and from additional requirements of the Board of Auditors. . .</i>	289 289

Chairman: Mr. Vahap AŞIROĞLU (Turkey).

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

AGENDA ITEMS 12 AND 79

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters I and XIV) (concluded)*

Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (concluded)*

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.887 AND CORR.1)

1. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Rapporteur, said that there had been some changes to make in

*Resumed from the 1162nd meeting.

paragraphs 26 and 29 of the Committee's draft report (A/C.5/L.887 and Corr.1).

The draft report (A/C.5/L.887 and Corr.1), as amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 82

Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (concluded)**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.888)

2. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) said that the fourth sentence of paragraph 3 of the draft report (A/C.5/L.888), which apparently referred to his statement, did not reflect his position accurately.

3. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil), Rapporteur, suggested that the Committee might adopt the report, on the understanding that he and the Hungarian representative would subsequently work out mutually satisfactory wording for the sentence in question.

It was so decided.

The draft report (A/C.5/L.888) was adopted with that reservation.

AGENDA ITEM 75

Pattern of conferences: report of the Secretary-General (A/6437 and Corr.1 and 2, A/6575, A/C.5/L.886)

4. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/6575), said that the Advisory Committee was fully aware of the importance which developing countries attached to political, technical, economic and social conferences and meetings. At the same time, the pace of budgetary expansion must reflect a reasonable reconciliation between the urgent need for a rapidly expanding meetings programme and the resources which Member States were prepared to contribute to the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Moreover, the availability of services might sometimes be even more of a limiting factor than the availability of other resources. The Advisory Committee was therefore surprised and gratified that the Secretary-General had in most cases been able to provide the services required and hoped to be able to do so in the future (A/6437 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 5).

5. The Advisory Committee endorsed the suggested establishment of a committee to deal with the programme of meetings (see A/6575, para. 7). That would

**Resumed from the 1164th meeting.

be a step in the right direction, although it would not solve all the problems and much experimenting would still be necessary. If the new committee was established, it should consider the timing of the programme of meetings. Proposals for new conferences and meetings, together with their financial implications, should if possible be submitted to the General Assembly during the first weeks of each session. Further proposals for new conferences and meetings arising from decisions taken by the Assembly during that session should receive urgent attention from the new committee and a time-limit, for example, early December, might be established for their submission. The new committee might also consider the question of defining "major special conference". Although the Advisory Committee was concerned about the increase in suggested major special conferences, particularly for 1967 and 1968, it considered that a well-defined programme of global conference and meeting requirements would do more to solve the problem than strict adherence to the Assembly's decision that not more than one major special conference should be allowed in each year (resolution 2116 (XX)). The Advisory Committee sincerely hoped that United Nations organs would faithfully apply any arrangements that might be decided upon.

6. Mr. LYNCH (New Zealand), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/L.886, said that it had long been recognized that the uncontrolled expansion of the programme of conferences and meetings had given rise to very serious administrative and budgetary problems. Of course, meetings played a vital role in United Nations activities, but the expansion of the meetings programme must be reconciled with the availability of resources. Appeals for a reduced rate of expansion had been of little avail, and quantitative restrictions would not be acceptable to all Member States. Draft resolution A/C.5/L.886 attempted to solve the problem by incorporating an idea first advanced by the Special Committee on Co-ordination and subsequently endorsed by the Advisory Committee.^{1/} It proposed the establishment of a committee on conferences which would be responsible solely to the General Assembly and whose primary task would be to draw up and submit to each regular Assembly session, within the total conference pattern of the United Nations family, a rational calendar of conferences and meetings for the following year which would bring competing interests into balance and reflect the Assembly's views on priorities. After consultations with the Secretariat and many interested delegations, the sponsors of the draft resolution had endeavoured to devise a formula which would be feasible, effective and generally acceptable, but they would welcome any suggestions that would improve it.

7. The sponsors had carefully considered the possibility of having the functions of the committee on conferences performed by an existing body, such as the Advisory Committee, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, or a sub-committee of the Fifth Committee or the General Committee, but none of those alternatives had seemed acceptable. The Advisory Committee's excellent work might be

jeopardized if its responsibilities were added to; the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was limited in scope; a sub-group of the Fifth Committee might not have the necessary status, and the members of the General Committee were elected at each session in an individual capacity, whereas the body dealing with conferences should be composed of Member States and have a certain degree of continuity in its membership. The sponsors had therefore decided in favour of a new body, but had tried to provide for very close liaison between it and other United Nations organs, particularly the General Committee.

8. Operative paragraph 3 requested the President of the General Assembly to designate the first 12 member States of the committee on conferences; one third of them would retire at the end of the first year and another third at the end of the second year, in order to establish a basis for rotation. In future, members could be elected by the Assembly or designated by its President after consultation with various regional groups.

9. The sponsors had suggested a membership of 12 because of the need for rotation and in the belief that limited size was essential for efficiency. If that failed to accommodate all regional interests, they would accept 15 members, but would be reluctant to enlarge the committee further.

10. Operative paragraph 5 described the important role to be played by the Secretary-General in preparing the new committee's work; the sponsors understood that the compilation of the requested information would not impose too heavy a burden on the Secretariat.

11. Operative paragraph 6 would ensure that the Advisory Committee's expert knowledge would be available to the committee on conferences.

12. The new committee would, of course, establish its own time-table in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat. However, the General Assembly might appropriately give some guidance in that respect, possibly along the lines suggested in operative paragraph 7. Any questions concerning the calendar of conferences and meetings which could not be settled through a dialogue between the committee on conferences and the Main Committees would be resolved by the Assembly. Approval of the calendar by the Assembly would not preclude the holding of a really urgent unforeseen meeting, and meetings provided for in the calendar could, of course, be postponed if necessary.

13. Mr. RIHA (Czechoslovakia), noting that the question of the organization of meetings and conferences had received unusual attention during the past year, recalled that the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies had made a number of useful suggestions on the subject in paragraph 104 of its second report (A/6343). It was now for the General Assembly to devise a satisfactory method of preparing the calendar of conferences and meetings. Many of the proposals for new conferences were prompted by the requirements of economic and social development, for which the Economic and Social

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 47 and 48.

Council bore primary responsibility; it was to be hoped that the review of the Council's activities to be undertaken by its new Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would lead to an improvement in the organization of conferences on economic and social subjects.

14. Steps must be taken to co-ordinate the over-all programme of conferences and meetings, to establish priorities and to eliminate duplication. Draft resolution A/C.5/L.886 was intended to achieve that aim. While his delegation appreciated the sponsors' effort, however, it doubted the advisability of setting up a permanent committee on conferences. It could see no need for continuity of membership, since the members of bodies in which proposals for conferences originated were representatives of Governments and had an opportunity to express their views on such proposals. All proposals were ultimately considered by the General Assembly on the basis of a schedule prepared by the Secretariat.

15. The main activity of any committee on conferences should take place during the General Assembly's regular session. The committee would review the schedule of meetings and recommend any changes, include in the schedule meetings proposed in the course of the session, and finally submit a complete draft calendar of meetings for adoption by the Assembly. The committee would also make recommendations on priorities and the avoidance of duplication. It should be representative of the membership, and its level and composition should therefore be similar to that of the General Committee, if the General Committee could not itself undertake the work

16. The Fifth Committee, too, should perhaps consider the calendar of conferences several times during each session of the Assembly, and the Advisory Committee should have an opportunity to express its views at any time. His delegation recognized that the question was a complex one and hoped that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.866 would take into account all the views expressed.

17. Mr. VAN GREVENYNGHE (France) remarked that draft resolution A/C.5/L.886 was not at variance with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts in regard to conferences, meetings and documentation (A/6343, paras. 92-104), and was accordingly acceptable to his delegation. However, he would like to make some comments.

18. First, while the provisions of the draft resolution seemed logical and coherent, they dealt essentially with measures to be adopted for the United Nations itself. Operative paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (a), was no more than a reminder of the background against which arrangements were to be made for the United Nations; it did not provide for full implementation of the pertinent recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts (*ibid.*, para. 104, sub-paragraph (c)). If the draft resolution was adopted, the Secretary-General would still have to undertake a more comprehensive examination, with his colleagues in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, of all the recommendations in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts.

19. Secondly, operative paragraph 3 failed to indicate whether the members of the committee on conferences would be eligible for re-election at the end of their three-year term. His delegation thought that they should be, for the sake of continuity.

20. Thirdly, there seemed to be an inconsistency between operative paragraph 8, which referred to "decisions" involving new meetings and conferences, and operative paragraph 7, sub-paragraph (a), which concerned "proposals" for new meetings and conferences. He suggested that a reference to proposals for new meetings and conferences should accordingly be inserted in operative paragraph 8.

21. Lastly, he noted that the complete statement of resources required and available, called for in operative paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b), would enable the committee on conferences to estimate the financial situation. But should not all Member States be informed of the financial implications of the calendar of meetings? If the sponsors agreed, he would propose the following new paragraph to follow operative paragraph 8, based on the recommendation in paragraph 104, sub-paragraph (d), of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts:

"Requests the Secretary-General to include a special line in future budget estimates of the United Nations showing the expenditure directly attributable to conferences and meetings, and an annex containing an estimate of the total expenditure pertaining directly and indirectly to these activities."

22. Mr. RHODES (United Kingdom) supported draft resolution A/C.5/L.886 as a step in the right direction. He was not entirely happy about the time scale proposed in operative paragraph 7; it was preferable that the General Assembly's decision regarding the pattern of conferences for a particular year should be known before the Secretary-General prepared the budget estimates for that year. He recognized that there must be some flexibility and room for adjustment until a fairly late stage; on the other hand, experience suggested that, for major conferences at least, a long period of preparation was necessary. The Assembly must therefore be able to look reasonably far ahead, and his delegation accordingly wondered whether it was realistic to describe the schedule for the year after next as "provisional". Reference to the "main" schedule would be more accurate. Perhaps the representative of the Secretary-General could indicate what proportion of conferences were scheduled eighteen months to two years in advance. If the schedule really was provisional, it might be difficult to co-ordinate the administrative and budgetary aspects of the calendar during the closing stages of the Assembly. He assumed, although the draft did not say so explicitly, that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee would have an opportunity to comment on any modifications proposed under operative paragraph 7, sub-paragraph (b).

23. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said that draft resolution A/C.5/L.886 was a constructive contribution to the vexing problem of conferences. The draft reflected the Advisory Committee's view that any proposals submitted to the Assembly should incorporate the need to establish a calendar of

regularly scheduled conferences for a minimum period of two or more years and, if possible, include the conference and meetings programmes of the specialized agencies.

24. As the current session had shown, it was possible to have a good idea of the conference programme for the next two years, and to make meaningful projections three years ahead. For example, the draft resolution—if it were currently in effect—would concentrate on 1967 and 1968; his delegation considered that it would be helpful to all the Main Committees if the pattern of conferences for 1969, too, could be tentatively outlined at an early date. Moreover, because the facilities in Geneva were shared with the specialized agencies, the calendar of conferences should so far as possible include the proposed activities of the agencies.

25. The references to the opening and closing stages of the General Assembly's regular session, in operative paragraph 7 were perhaps too ambiguous and should be made more specific. The Advisory Committee should be given an opportunity to present its comments on the calendar of meetings and conferences while the Assembly was getting under way. More important, the committee on conferences should complete its work in time for the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee to examine the financial implications of the approved calendar. That would present problems of timing, on which he invited the sponsors' views.

26. Mr. S. K. SINGH (India) remarked that every year an effort was made to ensure that the calendar of meetings and conferences was prepared sufficiently in advance so that adequate facilities would be available. As stated in the draft resolution, meetings and conferences provided Member States with a unique forum. Unfortunately, the draft resolution devoted less attention to the co-ordination of the meetings and conferences planned by all the organizations in the United Nations family than the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had done in its report (A/6343).

27. The delegation of India and also the delegation of Senegal and the United Arab Republic, on whose behalf he was speaking, would be unable to support operative paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b), of the draft resolution if the term "resources" meant all financial and other resources. It would seem from the debate at the twentieth session of the General Assembly that the term signified facilities. At that session, the Fifth Committee had reaffirmed that, although certain United Nations bodies were authorized to decide the place of their meetings, that prerogative was necessarily subordinate to the appropriating authority of the General Assembly (1112th meeting, para. 11, sub-paragraph (a)). It had also felt that, as regards conference arrangements, the Secretary-General was best placed to decide when and where a particular meeting could be held to greatest advantage (ibid., sub-paragraph (b)).

28. At the current session, there had been a tendency to seek the solution to problems of co-ordination and expenditure by creating new committees. The work

which it was proposed to entrust to the committee on conferences could perhaps be performed by the General Committee of the Assembly. However, any constructive proposals made by the sponsors of the draft resolution would be acceptable to the Indian delegation.

29. It had still not been decided what constituted a "major special conference". The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had considered the question and expressed the view that the Secretary-General should be asked to recommend a definition of the term.

30. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said he had understood from the representatives of the Secretariat that, where the pattern of conferences was concerned, the space and conference staff available were limiting factors. He wondered whether, in his remarks on paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (b), of the draft resolution, the Indian representative had meant that the Secretary-General should not prepare a statement of the estimated cost of the various conferences and meetings. Such a statement, to be prepared in conjunction with the provisional calendar of meetings and conferences, would be most helpful to Member States and to the proposed committee on conferences.

31. Mr. S. K. SINGH (India) replied that he had the same understanding as the United States representative on the subject of conference facilities and staff. About 80 per cent of the meetings and conferences were the same each year. The problem was how best to organize the remaining 20 per cent, which were the result of decisions taken in various United Nations bodies in order to promote the fundamental aims embodied in the Charter.

32. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said he agreed with much of what the Indian representative had said. The ideas expressed in the draft resolution were generally acceptable to his delegation. It would be useful to have a statement of the financial implications of the draft.

33. Mr. KIRKBRIDE (Secretariat) stated that the draft resolution would have no financial implications for 1967 or subsequent years. The proposed committee on conferences would be composed of representatives of Member States and would meet during the regular sessions of the General Assembly.

34. In part I of annexes I and II to the Secretary-General's report (A/6437 and Corr.1 and 2) the phrase "both or at least one of the Sub-Committees will meet outside New York" appearing in foot-note b should read "both or at least one of the Sub-Committees may meet outside New York". That wording would be in conformity with paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (b), of General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX).

35. Mr. LYNCH (New Zealand) said that the sponsors welcomed the broad endorsement given to the purposes and content of their draft resolution. They would consult with the delegations which had suggested changes in the text.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (continued)*** (A/6305, A/6307, A/6385, A/6457 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/6502, A/6524, A/6526, A/6582, 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 and Add.1, A/C.5/1065, A/C.5/1066, A/C.5/1074-1076, A/C.5/1081, A/C.5/1092, A/C.5/1100, A/C.5/1101, A/C.5/1103, A/C.5/L.868, A/C.5/L.871, A/C.5/L.875-878, A/C.5/L.880)

Revised estimates resulting from the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2145 (XXI) on the question of South West Africa (A/C.5/1100)

36. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1100) relating to the question of South West Africa. The Secretary-General had estimated that, as a result of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2145 (XXI) on that question, there would be increased requirements under various sections of the 1967 budget estimates totalling \$144,500.

37. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the financial implications of resolution 2145 (XXI) fell into two categories: those related to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for South West Africa, composed of 14 Member States, and those connected with the special session of the General Assembly, to be convened not later than April 1967.

38. The Advisory Committee agreed that it was difficult to estimate precisely the cost of the assistance to be rendered to the Ad Hoc Committee until the scope and nature of the latter's requirements were clearly known. It had no doubt, however, as to the need for some temporary assistance at a cost of \$34,500 to strengthen the staff of the Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The estimate of \$110,000 for the costs of a three-week special session of the General Assembly seemed as precise as was possible in the circumstances. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee concurred with the request made by the Secretary-General for an additional appropriation of \$144,500 to be divided between sections 1 (Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies), 3 (Salaries and wages), 4 (Common staff costs), 10 (General expenses) and 11 (Printing) of the budget estimates for 1967, as indicated in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1100).

39. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that

an additional appropriation should be made in the amount of \$50,000 under section 1, \$61,100 under section 3, \$8,400 under section 4, \$5,000 under section 10 and \$20,000 under section 11 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1967.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was approved by 62 votes to none.

Revised estimates resulting from the admission of new Members and from additional requirements of the Board of Auditors (A/C.5/1101)

40. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1101) under section 1 (Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies) resulting from the admission of new Member States and from additional needs of the Board of Auditors. The Secretary-General had estimated that additional requirements of \$23,500 would result from the admission to membership of Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho and Barbados and from Indonesia's resumption of relations with the United Nations. An additional credit of \$9,000 was requested to meet the costs of the Board of Auditors.

41. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that, in requesting an additional \$23,500 for the reimbursement of travel costs to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly for representatives of the Member States concerned, the Secretary-General had anticipated approval by the General Assembly of the Fifth Committee's recommendation on the travel standard for the first representative (see 1148th meeting).

42. The Advisory Committee could not make any meaningful appraisal of the request of the Board of Auditors. The practice appeared to be that the members of the Board decided for themselves how many assistants they wanted to bring with them and for how long. Moreover, the Governments providing the members of the Board were reimbursed by the United Nations for the actual costs they incurred in conducting the audits.

43. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the request of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1101, para. 6).

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$33,400 under section 1 was approved by 64 votes to none.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

***Resumed from the 1163rd meeting.