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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 81:</i>	
<i>Publications and documentation of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (continued)</i>	219
<i>Agenda item 74:</i>	
<i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (continued)</i>	
<i>First reading (continued)</i>	
<i>Section 11. Printing (continued)</i>	220
<i>Section 20. United Nations Industrial Development Organization</i>	220
<i>Agenda item 82:</i>	
<i>Personnel questions:</i>	
<i>(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (continued);</i>	
<i>(b) Other personnel questions (continued) . . .</i>	222

Chairman: Mr. Harry MORRIS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEM 81

Publications and documentation of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/6675, A/6872, A/C.5/L.915 and Add.1)

1. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary for Conference Services) explained that there were three basic types of documents—pre-session, in-session and post-session—and that the rules of procedure governing documentation were not the same in all bodies. Under rule 58 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly the Secretary-General and the Secretariat were required to make available all resolutions and other important documents in the official languages. In those rules, times were specified only in the case of three documents: rule 12 required the provisional agenda for a regular session of the General Assembly to be communicated to Member States at least 60 days before the opening of the session; rule 48 required the Secretary-General's annual report to be communicated to the Members at least 45 days before the opening of the session; and regulation 3.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations required the budget estimates to be distributed 5 weeks prior to the opening of the regular session. Rule 14, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council allowed the Council normally to include in its agenda for the session only items for which adequate documentation had been circulated to Members six weeks before the beginning of the session. The expression "in due time" in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution before the Com-

mittee (A/C.5/L.915 and Add.1) therefore referred to those time-limits.

2. Referring to the word "simultaneously", in the same paragraph, he explained that the time interval between the submission of a document in the original language and the issue of its translation depended on the nature of the text. Of the measures required to ensure that documents were distributed in due time and simultaneously in the working languages, the most important was the submission of the manuscript in the original language sufficiently in advance of the distribution date envisaged for all the translated versions. Secondly, the translation sections had to adhere to a carefully worked out system of priorities based on the importance and urgency of documents. Thirdly, the distribution of a document in the original language could be delayed until it was available in all the languages. That practice was applied to in-session documents, such as draft resolutions, corrigenda, addenda and the reports of the Main Committees to the General Assembly. The Publishing Service had to make arrangements to ensure that document reproduction met the needs of simultaneous distribution and that its equipment and resources were used to capacity.

3. An exceptionally heavy burden would be placed on the services in 1968, during which six or seven special conferences would be held. During the peak period from 11 to 25 March the United Nations Office at Geneva would have to recruit, on a temporary basis, 66 interpreters, 264 translator/précis-writers and 302 typists; in the subsequent period the corresponding figures would be 41,162 and 139, respectively, and during the period from 22 April to 13 May they would be 41, 156 and 209. It would be misleading, however, to use 1968 as a basis for calculating future requirements and the Secretary-General hoped that in 1969 it would be possible to service all meetings and conferences with resources available within the permanent establishment as indicated in the budget estimates for the financial year 1968. As stated therein (A/6705 and Corr.1, p. 66, para. 181), the conference programme and the volume of related documentation would be extensively re-examined by the General Assembly at its current session. The conference programme was at present being considered by the Committee on Conferences, which would report its findings to the General Assembly by about 15 December, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2239 (XXI).

4. He assured the Committee that the Secretary-General and the Secretariat had done their best to issue all documents, especially important pre-session documents for the General Assembly and the Economic

and Social Council, in good time, as requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1090 E (XXXIX), section I, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (c), and in General Assembly resolution 2247 (XXI), paragraph 3, and would continue to do so in the future. The Secretary-General would introduce all the measures necessary for that purpose. He therefore felt it would be more appropriate to omit the words "the necessary" from operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. He also thought that the insertion of the word "practicable" before "measures", as suggested by the representative of the United States of America at the 1207th meeting, would be meaningless as the Secretary-General would obviously not take measures which were impracticable.

5. It would be quite proper for the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the proposed resolution to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session, as the heavy work programme envisaged for 1968 would by then have been largely completed and more would be known about the requirements for 1969.

6. Mr. CAHEN (Belgium) said the sponsors of the draft resolution agreed with the Under-Secretary for Conference Services that the words "the necessary" should be deleted from operative paragraph 4. The principle of the simultaneous distribution of documents in all working languages should be applied within reason, but there would obviously be circumstances in which that would not be possible. His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat to distribute documents in good time and was aware that the exceptionally heavy burden the services would have to bear in 1968 was solely due to decisions taken by the Member States themselves.

7. Mr. RIHA (Czechoslovakia) confirmed that his delegation, as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, would accept the amendment suggested by the Under-Secretary for Conference Services.

8. Mr. LOQUMAN (Mauritania) expressed wholehearted support for draft resolution A/C.5/L.915 and Add.1, with the amendment just proposed. It met the requirements of the situation and voiced the sentiments his own delegation had expressed on the subject earlier. He had noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's recommendations (A/6675, para. 51) and the endorsement of them by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as expressed in its report (A/6872, para. 8).

9. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said that he appreciated the difficulties faced by the Office of Conference Services and wished to thank the Under-Secretary for his explanations and suggestions. He also wished to thank the representatives of Belgium and France for their interventions at the preceding and current meetings, which, coupled with the suggestions made by the Under-Secretary, should insure that the resolution would be carried out in a practicable manner.

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Commission to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.915 and Add.1, as modified by the deletion of the words "the necessary" from operative paragraph 4.

The draft resolution, as modified, was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (continued) (A/6705 and Corr.1, A/6707 and Corr.1-3, A/6854, A/6861, A/6878, A/C.5/1113 and Corr.1 and 2, A/C.5/1114 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1115 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1118, A/C.5/1123 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1124, A/C.5/1126-1129, A/C.5/1132, A/C.5/1135, A/C.5/1136, A/C.5/1138, A/C.5/L.901, A/C.5/L.908 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.917)

11. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the Secretary-General's report on the increase in General Service salary scales at Headquarters (A/C.5/1136), observed that General Assembly resolution 1658 A (XVI) had laid down rules for the adjustment of the cost-of-living index for Professional and higher-level staff on the basis of 5 per cent variations in the cost of living. He requested statistical information concerning the rise in the corresponding index for General Service staff.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the requested information would be provided when the Committee resumed its consideration of section 3 (Salaries and wages) of the budget estimates.

First reading (continued) (A/C.5/L.908 and Corr.1)

SECTION 11. PRINTING (continued)* (A/6705 AND CORR.1, A/6707 AND CORR.1-3, A/6854, A/C.5/1114 AND CORR.1)

13. The CHAIRMAN said that the initial appropriation under section 11 requested by the Secretary-General in the budget estimates for the financial year 1968 (A/6705 and Corr.1) amounted to \$1,688,300. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its main report (A/6707 and Corr.1-3, para. 305), had recommended a reduction of \$88,300 and hence an appropriation of \$1,600,000. In the revised estimates resulting from the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-second and forty-third sessions (A/C.5/1114 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General had proposed an increase of \$7,200. The Advisory Committee recommended against that provision (A/6854, para. 18). The total appropriation under section 11 recommended by the Advisory Committee thus amounted to \$1,600,000, or \$95,500 less than the Secretary-General's estimates.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$1,600,000 under section 11 was approved on first reading by 75 votes to none.

SECTION 20. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (A/6705 AND CORR.1, A/6707 AND CORR.1-3)

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretary-General had requested an appropriation of \$9,202,000 under section 20 for 1968 (A/6705 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee, in its main report (A/6707 and Corr.1-3, para. 411), had recommended an amount of \$8,072,000.

*Resumed from the 1204th meeting.

or \$1,130,000 less than the Secretary-General's request.

15. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, in its very careful consideration of section 20, had sought to determine the size of the budget which UNIDO would need to carry out its programme of work in 1968. Naturally, that had called for an element of judgement.

16. The expenses of the Centre for Industrial Development in 1966 had been just under \$3 million. The appropriation approved for 1967 had been \$5.9 million; the Advisory Committee had then concurred in a supplementary appropriation of \$1.5 million for the purpose of UNIDO's move to Vienna, and it had not subsequently suggested a reduction in that amount despite the factors mentioned in paragraph 27 of its report on the supplementary estimates for 1967 (A/6852). That illustrated the point that it had never been the Advisory Committee's intention to deprive UNIDO of the financial resources it needed.

17. Of the total reduction of \$1,130,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee for 1968, \$740,000 related to chapter III (Salaries and wages). The reasons for the recommended cut under that chapter were stated in paragraphs 400 and 401 of the Advisory Committee's main report. If the Advisory Committee's recommendation was accepted, UNIDO would have a total of 554 established posts in 1968, an increase of 355 over the establishment with which it had begun less than one year before. He would submit that such a rate of growth could not be described as restrictive.

18. In addition to a consequential reduction of \$220,000 under chapter IV (Common staff costs and travel on home leave), the Advisory Committee also recommended a reduction of \$100,000 under chapter X (Publications programme and contractual reproduction services); the publications programme of a new organization was unlikely to reach the estimated level in the first full year of operation. The remaining reductions recommended were to be applied to chapters V (Travel of staff on official business), VII (Permanent equipment) and IX (General expenses).

19. The recommendations were based on considerations of sound management procedures. He did not think them unduly parsimonious. In the course of 1968 the Advisory Committee would keep developments in UNIDO under close scrutiny and make whatever further recommendations were warranted by the changes in circumstances.

20. Since UNIDO was in the formative stage, it was extremely difficult to forecast what its exact programme activities and expenses would be. The Advisory Committee had approached section 20 in the same spirit as it had approached the section on UNCTAD a few years earlier. That approach had proved to be correct. UNCTAD had been able to perform all of its tasks within the financial provisions submitted by the Secretary-General, as modified by the Advisory Committee.

21. As he had stated at the 1197th meeting, the Advisory Committee would continue to recommend all necessary budgetary and administrative measures to

ensure that UNCTAD and UNIDO could carry out their priority programmes.

22. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) thanked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the assurances he had just given. The Tanzanian delegation agreed that, since UNIDO was in an early stage, it was difficult to know precisely what its requirements would be. But it was equally difficult to know what effect the recommended cuts would have. He asked the Executive Director of UNIDO whether in his opinion the recommended reductions would have any major repercussions on the organization's work. A young organization should be treated leniently. Very tight budget control might prevent the very growth that made useful reductions possible later on, when the institution was on a firm footing.

23. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) hoped that the Executive Director might give a brief progress report on developments in UNIDO, particularly as they related to the matters under discussion at present.

24. Mr. LOQUMAN (Mauritania) said that, in referring to UNIDO and UNCTAD at the previous meeting in connexion with section 3 of the budget estimates, he had had in mind the possibility open to the Secretary-General of shifting staff from one part of the Secretariat to another. He had not intended, in his statement, to challenge the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in any way.

25. His delegation felt that the reductions recommended for both UNIDO and UNCTAD were excessive. Those organizations, which were of the highest importance to the developing countries, must be given special consideration during the early stages of their development. Sections 19 and 20 of the budget estimates therefore required the Fifth Committee's meticulous and unhurried study.

26. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) thanked members of the Committee for their expressions of support for UNIDO and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for his statement that that Committee would keep developments in UNIDO under close review and make any necessary further recommendations. As the Tanzanian representative had said, it was hard to determine precise figures for UNIDO at its present stage. The Secretary-General in presenting his estimates and the Advisory Committee in formulating its recommendations had both used their best judgement. Some flexibility should be maintained between the two figures submitted. Such a situation was not uncommon in regard to newly established organizations.

27. He would not speculate at that juncture whether the recommended reduction would be a serious hindrance or not. Two determining events for the work of UNIDO were to take place soon. The Industrial Development Board was to produce the results of its deliberations on guidelines for UNIDO activities and the International Symposium on Industrial Development, which would have an important bearing on future UNIDO work, was to begin shortly. Since 1 November, UNIDO had been functioning entirely in Vienna. It had been receiving generous support from IAEA through the extension of numerous services. It

had managed so far to set up an administrative nucleus and was busily engaged in recruiting staff and performing current tasks. It was occupying temporary premises made available by the Austrian Government pending the completion of permanent quarters. The administrative and substantive services were housed in several different buildings, which made work more difficult.

28. With the support of Headquarters, the co-operation of IAEA and the continuing generous help of the Austrian Government, UNIDO would certainly be fully able to carry out its programme of work. He sincerely hoped that Member States would maintain a flexible attitude during 1968 and succeeding years, until UNIDO had established itself and possessed a budget, an administrative apparatus and a work programme which were satisfactory to the General Assembly.

29. Mr. TEMBO (Zambia) asked whether certain countries were still intending to boycott the International Symposium on Industrial Development for ideological reasons. It was important for the Symposium to be universal; the developing countries needed information from nations which had considerable knowledge and experience of industrial development.

30. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that as at 17 November 76 countries had accepted invitations to the Symposium, 24 had declined invitations and about 30 had not yet replied. However, attendance at the Symposium could not be measured only by the number of official delegations sent by countries. Concurrently with the Symposium, there was to be an Industrial Promotion Service to foster contacts and co-operative efforts outside the actual meetings. Even if a country did not attend the Symposium, representatives of industrial and business circles in the country might participate in the Industrial Promotion Service. In all, about 100 countries would be represented at Athens.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/6707 and Corr.1-3, para. 411) for an appropriation of \$8,072,000 under section 20 was approved on first reading by 82 votes to none.

AGENDA ITEM 82

Personnel questions:

- (a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (continued)* (A/6860 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.900 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.913 and Add.1, A/C.5/L.914 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.5/L.916);
- (b) Other personnel questions (continued)* (A/6877)

31. Mr. GANEM (France) said that the delegation of the United States of America at the 1203rd meeting had implied that there were "Francophone" and "Anglophone" posts in the Secretariat, for which candidates speaking the other language should be offered one-year probationary appointments. Such compartmentalization of Secretariat posts was undesirable and would aggravate recruitment problems.

32. The fears of the United Kingdom delegation (see 1205th meeting) that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/L.914 and Add.1 and 2 would create rather than solve staff problems were unfounded. The text, of which France was a sponsor, was not designed to complicate the task of the Secretariat or to undermine its efficiency.

33. So far as recruitment was concerned, a better language balance could be achieved only if the senior officials responsible for personnel matters and recruitment were representative of the various languages. Candidates' qualifications should be evaluated by staff members who had the same linguistic and cultural background as they did. It should be possible to allay the misgivings expressed on that score by the Director of Personnel at the 1206th meeting. Indeed, the original French text of paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (a), of the draft resolution was worded in more general terms than the English version.

34. The draft resolution was concerned with the use of the different working languages of the United Nations, as they were defined in the rules of procedure of the various organs. It would be arbitrary to limit the idea of languages to the practices or rules of any one principal organ. His delegation was sympathetic to the idea of a wider use of Spanish and Russian in the principal organs of the United Nations. That was a matter, however, which would have to be carefully studied by the Secretary-General.

35. So far as the use of languages in the Secretariat was concerned, the draft resolution echoed the recommendation made in the Secretary-General's report (A/6860 and Corr.1) on the language instruction programme. The programme would only serve the desired purpose, however, if there were sufficient incentive for staff members to participate in it. There should therefore be a system of language bonuses for staff in the Professional category subject to geographical distribution and using two working languages. The Secretary-General would have to work out the administrative details of the system, as he had done for the language proficiency allowance for General Service staff. The Director of Personnel had requested clarification about the meaning of the term "working languages". It should be pointed out that the draft resolution did not propose any constitutional amendment of the various rules by which the Organization was at present governed.

36. It might be objected that a system of language bonuses would penalize staff members whose mother tongue was not one of the working languages and who would have to learn a second working language. Yet such an objection would be implicit recognition of the fact that one language was destined to be used predominantly or even exclusively. That was contrary to the Charter and to the rules of procedure of the various United Nations organs, which had been drawn up by the Member States themselves.

37. It was true that the recommendations made in paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (b), of the draft resolution would have financial implications as, indeed, did most proposals for action. However, it could be seen from the Secretary-General's report that the cost would have been much greater had the sponsors

*Resumed from the 1206th meeting.

requested, as they were quite entitled to do, the strict observance of the existing rules concerning working languages.

38. The Committee would therefore agree that the draft resolution reflected a desire for greater equity which could only benefit the Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole.

39. Mr. FRANCIS (Canada) said that, in submitting draft resolution A/C.5/L.914 and Add.1 and 2, the French- and Spanish-speaking sponsors had been motivated by the principles established in the rules of procedure of the principal organs of the United Nations and the interest of Member States in the equitable utilization of the working languages.

40. The comments and recommendations concerning the language problem made in the Secretary-General's report did not get to the bottom of the problem and suggested only incomplete solutions. For example, the vague and general recommendation in paragraph 70, sub-paragraph (f), gave no assurance that real efforts would be made to improve the linguistic composition of the staff or to expand the language instruction programme. Admittedly the fact that the Headquarters of the United Nations was in New York had been instrumental in making English the dominant working language. Yet the efficiency of the Organization would be enhanced if there were an equitable balance among the working languages and if every staff member could use his own language as if it were one of the working languages. The negative attitude reflected in the Secretary-General's report was not justified.

41. The simultaneous distribution of documents in the various working languages was a corollary of the principle of linguistic equality. Steps should be taken to remedy the current situation, where the French version of documents was often issued long after the English. The budgetary obstacles to the simultaneous distribution of documents in the various languages could be overcome if the services concerned used their imagination and their resources to the maximum, within the limits of their budget.

42. Only energetic and sustained action would ensure a more equitable balance among the working languages used in the Secretariat and a better balance in the

recruitment of staff. For that reason, the Canadian delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/L.914 and Add.1 and 2. That text proposed constructive and practical ways of attaining those goals.

43. Mr. CHULUUNBAATAR (Mongolia) noted that, as stated in the Secretary-General's report, the distinction between working and other official languages was steadily diminishing. It would not be difficult or costly to adopt additional working languages. His delegation therefore supported the proposal made by the Soviet Union representative at the 1203rd meeting that Russian should be used as one of the working languages of the principal organs of the United Nations. Russian was the language used by a number of countries, which contributed 20 per cent of the Organization's regular budget and took an active part in the work of the United Nations and other international organizations. Practical considerations were also involved. At the moment, there were considerable delays in the distribution of General Assembly documents in Russian. His delegation had only just received in Russian the summary records of the meetings of the Fifth Committee held during the seventeenth session of the General Assembly in 1962. Russian was used increasingly as a language of international intercourse. As stated in the Secretary-General's report, in 1964, a total of 4,792 jobs had been translated from Russian. Russian was taught in 23 countries and was being studied by millions of people.

44. His delegation's views on that subject should be duly reflected in the official records of the Fifth Committee.

45. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said, with reference to the French representative's remarks, that his delegation's position with respect to draft resolution A/C.5/L.914 and Add.1 and 2 had been completely misrepresented by the representative of France. That position had been clarified in an exchange with the representative of Italy just the day before. That was the reason why the United States delegation, since it did not feel that the matter should go uncorrected for two full days, had asked to exercise its right of reply.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.