



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/7803 on agenda item 43	289
Agenda item 82: Publications and documentation of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (<i>continued</i>)	289
Agenda item 76: Pattern of conferences: report of the Committee on Conferences	292
Agenda item 77: Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (<i>continued</i>) (e) United Nations Staff Pension Committee	293

Chairman: Mr. David SILVEIRA DA MOTA
(Brazil).

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE
SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/7803 ON
AGENDA ITEM 43* (A/C.5/1266)**

1. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1266) concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee (A/7803, para. 8), relating to the preparation of a report on the question of training national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries. It had noted that the preparation of the report would be undertaken mainly by UNIDO in consultation with UNCTAD, UNDP, the specialized agencies and other organizations. The Secretary-General anticipated that, in addition to staff time, which would be provided from within the existing manning table, the work would require the services of consultants as well as travel funds for the purpose of gathering the material. The implementation of the provisions of the draft resolution would involve an additional expenditure of \$59,000 in 1970, which the Secretary-General would endeavour to meet from the allocations approved for that financial year. The Advisory Committee appreciated the Secretary-General's intention but considered that the work involved in collating data and preparing the report, which might actually amount to

* The role of the United Nations in training national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries: report of the Secretary-General.

bringing up to date a similar report prepared in 1964,¹ had not been subjected to the same close scrutiny as other requests requiring additional funds. It was essential that all requests should receive the same thorough examination in the light of the work to be performed.

2. In the present case, the Advisory Committee considered that the expenditure relating to staff requirements and consultants had been overestimated and was confident that the Secretary-General would be able to prepare the report at a lower cost.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution of the Second Committee would entail no additional expenditure for the Organization as the Secretary-General would endeavour to meet the additional workload resulting therefrom within existing resources.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 82

**Publications and documentation of the United Nations:
report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/7576 and
Corr.1, A/7579, A/7789, A/C.5/1247, A/C.5/1257 and
Corr.1, A/C.5/L.1010)**

4. Mr. ROGERS (Canada) recalled that, in addressing the General Assembly on 29 September 1969 (1769th plenary meeting), the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs had declared that the United Nations was drowning in a sea of words and had appealed for improvement in the Organization's operations. His delegation had made it plain on various occasions that it was very much concerned with raising the level of achievement of the United Nations. His Government was opposed to arbitrary ceilings on budgets and was quite prepared to pay its share of the cost of new programmes although it opposed waste and extravagance. Money saved in a given sector could be used to improve other activities or to undertake new tasks.

5. There was general agreement that the United Nations produced more documentation than the Governments of Member States could use and that excessive documentation hampered the proper functioning of the Organization. The problem of documentation itself gave rise to a considerable amount of documentation. His delegation, together with those of Czechoslovakia, New Zealand and Poland, was now

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, documents E/3901/Rev.1 and Add.1 and 2.

introducing yet another draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1010). The text was an amalgamation of a Czechoslovak text and a Canadian text and had taken account of suggestions by several other delegations. Its aim was to effect a significant reduction in the volume of the Organization's documentation without sacrificing material which some delegations considered of major importance. The sponsors would welcome any recommendation designed to improve the text and hoped that it would command the unanimous approval of the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly.

6. The draft resolution gave expression to most of the recommendations by various bodies on the question of documentation, whose implementation still required legislative action by the General Assembly. Summarizing certain provisions in the draft resolution, he pointed out, in connexion with operative paragraph 8, that there were too many cases in which Governments requested the United Nations to translate, reproduce and distribute material which they might well distribute at their own expense.

7. Some ideas had not been included in the draft resolution. One was that the First Committee should dispense with verbatim records in favour of summary records. Another was that, in the General Assembly's plenary meetings, the general debate and discussion of such other items as the General Committee might determine would be reported verbatim, while the debate of all other items would be recorded in summary form. His delegation had hoped that those ideas could be implemented on an experimental basis for one session of the General Assembly but had been persuaded that they could not command general acceptance. Even so, it would be useful to discuss them. The Committee might recommend the First Committee to consider adopting a less costly and less voluminous form of records.

8. The reduction of the volume of documentation was not an end in itself but would enable the United Nations to increase its efficiency, the better to serve the universal desire for peace and prosperity. The functioning of the General Assembly itself could also be improved by rationalizing the agenda, re-distributing the workload, reducing the number of meetings held by subsidiary bodies, discontinuing activities which had outlived their usefulness, improving co-ordination and eliminating duplication. That was a long-term undertaking which the draft resolution could further.

9. Mr. KALINOWSKI (Poland) recalled that, during the general discussion on the budget estimates for 1970, particularly in respect of section 11 (Printing), many delegations, including his own, had expressed disappointment at the continuing growth of documentation and the corresponding increases in expenditure—which represented a significant proportion of the budget.

10. In its report (see A/7576 and Corr.1), the Joint Inspection Unit had noted that in 1967, the total volume of documentation produced internally by the United Nations at Headquarters had been 16.19 per cent greater than in 1966. That figure alone indicated the magnitude of the problem, which had to be solved if the Organization was to function efficiently. He was convinced that significant savings could be achieved by the implementation of the General Assembly's recommendations in resolution

2292 (XXII), together with those of the Joint Inspection Unit and the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat. The funds thus made available could profitably be used for other activities. There had been some progress in implementing resolution 2292 (XXII) and the Secretary-General should be urged to intensify his efforts to ensure the implementation of all the recommendations therein.

11. The Joint Inspection Unit was to be congratulated; it had submitted outstanding reports and made extremely useful observations and recommendations with regard to the implementation of new measures, as well as measures which the Secretary-General had long been endeavouring to implement. One of the inspectors' conclusions (*ibid.*, para. 198) was that the system used by the United Nations for the holding of meetings, the processing of documents before, during and after the meetings and the organization of proceedings seemed to be obsolete and that the modernization of that system was highly desirable. His delegation fully agreed with that view.

12. His delegation attached particular importance to recommendation 4 of the Joint Inspection Unit, which concerned the development of a manual to regulate and codify every detail of procedure and jurisdiction affecting policy on documentation and publications, giving examples to illustrate style, format, referencing and the calculation of production time. A measure of that kind, which would have the effect of ensuring some degree of unity, would certainly make it possible to effect savings in the preparation of documents.

13. His delegation also endorsed recommendations 11 and 12, which advocated that the practice of issuing documents first in mimeographed and then in printed form should be eliminated. It also approved recommendation 15, which was that no United Nations organ or related body should use both summary and verbatim records. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had made a recommendation to the same effect (A/7789, para. 15) in urging that no newly established subsidiary body should be provided with summary records.

14. He also regarded as extremely important the recommendations made by the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat in paragraphs 137 and 139 of its report (A/7359, annex),² to the effect that the texts of the interpretation of statements made at meetings should be used in preparing the final versions of verbatim records in languages other than the original language. It might perhaps be advisable, however, to limit the experiment in the first place to records in the original language. It could then be decided, depending on the results obtained, whether or not the same procedure should be followed for all languages. In addition, his delegation would favour the idea of limiting the number of copies, which would make it possible to save on the reproduction and distribution of documents.

15. He wished to emphasize once again the need for rapid implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee; he also

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 74.*

thought it would be a good thing if the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Joint Inspection Unit, the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General took the necessary steps to phase out the publication of documents which were of no great interest to Member States. Obviously, however, savings could not be made in documentation unless the Member States themselves co-operated with the Secretariat and with all the organs responsible for questions relating to documentation; there was no doubt whatever that if the States were not prepared to show moderation in their demands, the Secretariat's efforts would be of no avail.

16. In the belief that new measures must be taken at the current session in order to ensure a fuller implementation of the recommendations on documentation, his delegation had made a point of being among the sponsors of the draft resolution which was now before the Committee (A/C.5/L.1010) and which seemed to fulfil the conditions necessary for gaining the Committee's support.

17. Mr. ESTABLIE (France) said that his delegation welcomed draft resolution A/C.5/L.1010, which had been introduced by the representative of Canada on behalf of the sponsors. Besides presenting a successful synthesis of the recommendations set out in the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/7576 and Corr.1), the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat (A/7359, annex) and the Committee on Conferences (A/7361),³ the text clearly pointed to the line that must be taken in questions of documentation. It was not a matter of limiting the documentation of the various United Nations bodies at any price, but rather of making an effort to achieve efficiency and of devoting the resources currently being utilized in excessive documentation to activities which were useful to the Governments of the Member States. In his view, the best way to achieve that aim was to implement the recommendations of the experts and, in particular, those of the Joint Inspection Unit, which were particularly useful. That, basically, was the purpose of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1010.

18. The draft resolution did not merely stress the need to recognize the importance of the problem and ask United Nations organs to consider ways of reducing documentation; it went further and laid down rules to which his delegation whole-heartedly subscribed. It seemed to him, for example, that there was every reason to establish as a principle the idea that verbatim or summary records should not be provided to a newly established subsidiary body, conference or meeting without the specific authorization of the parent body. Newly established bodies should not have verbatim or summary records except in truly exceptional cases and after their real importance had been taken into account.

19. His delegation was also pleased to note the request made in operative paragraph 5: it was sure that the information which the Secretary-General would be called upon to compile would show that the preparation of the periodic reports called for by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs represented a considerable amount of work for the Secretariat, that a large part of that work was

unnecessary and that it might be advisable to change the periodicity and length of those documents or even to discontinue them. In addition the Governments themselves would have to refrain from requesting that lengthy documents be distributed as documents of the United Nations, a procedure which impeded the functioning of the United Nations and which, in the last analysis, represented a financial burden for all Member States.

20. His delegation fully endorsed the measures advocated in operative paragraph 10, which were prompted by the recommendations of the various bodies which had studied the problem of documentation. Those measures, if adopted, would help to improve the functioning of the Organization; they would make it possible to eliminate duplication among documents and to reduce documentation to the bare minimum. The translation services would thus be relieved of some of their work and would be able to provide documents at the appropriate time in the different working languages of the various organs, so that in future no language would be given preference over any other, as still sometimes happened. Moreover, the fourth preambular paragraph stressed the fact that a substantial reduction of the volume of documentation would enable the Secretary-General better to comply with statutory requirements for the preparation and simultaneous distribution within the required time-limits of documents in the working languages of the various United Nations organs.

21. In conclusion he said that although he supported draft resolution A/C.5/L.1010, he wished to express reservations concerning operative paragraph 7, in which the General Assembly would be asked to take note of the decision of a body to which France had consistently objected.

22. Mr. SERBANESCU (Romania) said that it was apparent from the reports of the Secretary-General and those of the Advisory Committee, the Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat and the Joint Inspection Unit, as well as from the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly itself, that everyone agreed in recognizing that a way must be found to rationalize the somewhat chaotic process involved in the preparation and publication of United Nations documentation. Some progress had in fact been made, as the Secretary-General pointed out in his report (A/7579). In that connexion he wished to pay a tribute to the Secretariat for the energetic measures it had taken, and in particular to the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services, who had not allowed himself to be discouraged by difficulties and had always made imaginative suggestions.

23. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1010 had tried to consolidate the results which had been achieved. His delegation complimented them on the care with which they had studied the numerous documents submitted to the Committee, in order to extract the most important elements, which they had set out in an orderly and logical manner in their text. By and large his delegation endorsed the ideas and measures proposed in the draft resolution and was prepared to support it. It would, however, have liked to see an additional paragraph requesting the Secretary-General to notify the Member States in good time when he was planning to have documents printed externally instead of by the internal reproduction facilities of the United

³ *Ibid.*, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 75.

Nations. It hoped that that idea would be recorded in the Committee's report.

24. His delegation was convinced that whatever measures were taken to reduce the volume of United Nations documentation, no results could be achieved unless the Member States made up their minds to co-operate in the implementation of the measures, since they had not always done so in the past.

25. Mr. WEI (China) pointed out that it had always been the practice of the Office of Conference Services to distribute United Nations documents simultaneously in all the official languages, except for particularly voluminous documents. Considering the problems involved in the production of documents in Chinese, he wished particularly to express his appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services for his efforts in that connexion.

26. The Chinese delegation had intended to propose an amendment to the fourth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution in order to make it clear that the practice of simultaneous distribution of documents in all the official languages of the United Nations should continue to be followed. However, in view of the assurances of the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services given to his delegation that the established practice of simultaneous distribution of documents in all the official languages would continue to be followed, he would not formally propose an amendment and would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1010.

27. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) welcomed the draft resolution which essentially reflected views which his delegation had held for some time.

28. He read out a few minor changes which he wished to suggest in the English text of the draft resolution, but those were merely drafting changes which did not affect the substance or scope of the draft resolution and therefore should be accepted without difficulty.

29. Mr. RUTLEDGE (Chief Editor) said that a savings of some \$14,000 had resulted from the new procedure for the printing and distribution of the annexes to the report of the Economic and Social Council—18 documents, representing a total of 553 pages. The same procedure would be applied to the annexes of the report of the Economic and Social Council on its forty-seventh session. While it might create some practical problems for delegations in that the documents would be more numerous and bulkier, members of the Committee might perhaps feel that the savings effected outweighed those disadvantages. The Secretary-General would in any case review the matter and submit a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

30. In conclusion, in response to the assurances sought by the representative of China he wished to confirm that the Secretariat would continue to do its best in providing documentation in Chinese, in accordance with the rules of procedure of various bodies and established practices.

31. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should defer consideration of the item in order to enable

delegations to hold consultations and to reach an agreement.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 76

Pattern of conferences: report of the Committee on Conferences (A/7626 and Corr.1)

32. Mr. GONSALVES (Chairman of the Committee on Conferences) said that the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/7626 and Corr.1) was brief and straightforward and did not require any detailed introduction. Chapter II dealt with the progress made towards the reduction in the meetings programme and the volume of documentation. That progress had not been considerable, and much would remain to be done when subsidiary bodies completed their review of their meetings and documentation requirements.

33. In that connexion, he drew the attention of members of the Committee to chapter VI of the report, which contained the general observations of the Committee on Conferences, referred *inter alia* to the question whether that Committee should continue to pursue the matter or whether that work could not be undertaken by the Secretariat, on the basis of certain guidelines established by the General Assembly. The Committee on Conferences had felt that the General Assembly had the final responsibility for issuing clear-cut and far-reaching directives calculated to bring the problems of meetings and documentation under effective control. That Committee had been guided by its conviction that it had been unable to make a significant contribution towards the fulfilment of its original mandate because of the unwillingness of the General Assembly to delegate sufficient authority to it. The Committee on Conferences had therefore come to the unanimous conclusion that its tenure should be extended only if its mandate was considerably strengthened. The aforementioned chapter VI of the report—which presented an essentially negative assessment of its achievements in the light of the mandate entrusted to it—had been adopted without serious opposition and represented the thinking of that Committee as a whole. He was confident that the Fifth Committee would appreciate the frankness which the Committee had shown in the matter.

34. He drew the particular attention of the members of the Committee to paragraph 33 of the report, which referred to the need for the General Assembly to approve the calendar of conferences for 1970 and to adopt a resolution on the pattern of conferences, as it had done in previous years.

35. Finally, without prejudging the General Assembly's decision regarding the possible extension of the mandate of the Committee on Conferences, it should be pointed out that many members of that Committee were not able to attend its meetings regularly. Accordingly, it might be preferable, where necessary, to appoint, as members of the Committee, persons who had enough time at their disposal to give those problems the attention they deserved.

36. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the Committee on Conferences, in paragraph 32 of its report, concluded that its tenure should be extended only if its mandate could be considerably strengthened. That Committee further expressed the view that it was for the General Assembly to decide whether or not a useful purpose would be served by extending the Committee's tenure and, if so, what its future mandate might be. High expectations had been felt when the Committee had been established in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2239 (XXI). The Assembly had nevertheless been aware of the vast task with which the Committee had been entrusted and that, if it was to discharge its functions successfully, it would have to receive the full co-operation of all the principal or subsidiary organs concerned.

37. The Committee on Conferences had served a most useful purpose and had in some measure made it possible to organize and rationalize the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings. However, the Committee pointed out in its report that it had been unable to achieve satisfactory results in spite of its efforts and that the problem raised by the overcrowded calendar of conferences was even more serious than it had been three years earlier. In its report to the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, the Committee had indicated (A/7361,4 para. 14) that it could only perform its functions efficiently if it were given the authority to decide on all proposals for new conferences and meetings made during the General Assembly session and, moreover, if proposals made outside the regular session were subject to the concurrence of the Committee. By its resolution 2478 (XXIII) the General Assembly had endorsed the first recommendation but not the second.

38. The Advisory Committee had closely followed the work of the Committee on Conferences and had made a number of proposals designed to strengthen its position. It was therefore unfortunate that the Committee on Conferences had not been invested with sufficient authority to discharge its important functions more efficiently. Should the General Assembly decide not to extend the mandate of the Committee on Conferences, it would have to find some other solution which would enable it to keep the calendar of conferences and meetings within reasonable proportions. The Advisory Committee, for its part, would continue to examine the calendar closely.

39. As the Committee on Conferences had pointed out in paragraph 33 of its report, the General Assembly would have to approve the calendar of conferences and adopt a resolution at its current session. The Advisory Committee hoped that the General Assembly would, on that occasion, reaffirm the principles stated in paragraphs 6 to 11 of its resolution 2478 (XXIII).

40. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should defer its decision on the item in order to allow consulta-

tions to be held with a view to the drafting of a suitable proposal.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 77

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (*continued*):* (e) United Nations Staff Pension Committee (A/C.5/1267)

41. The CHAIRMAN invited the Fifth Committee to elect a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation, effective 31 December 1969, of Mr. Wilbur H. Ziehl. As indicated in the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1267), the Government of the United States of America had nominated Mr. Albert F. Bender to fill the vacancy during the unexpired portion of Mr. Ziehl's term of office, that is, from 1 January to 31 December 1970. The members of the Pension Committee were elected in their personal capacity, and in accordance with the provisions of article XXI of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. However, the members of the Fifth Committee were free to vote for any person they wished, whether or not his candidacy had been submitted officially.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Connolly (Ireland) and Mr. El Bahi (Libya) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	85
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	1
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	84
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	81
<i>Required majority:</i>	41

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Albert F. Bender	73
Three other persons	8

Mr. Bender (United States of America) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended his appointment to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for the period 1 January to 31 December 1970.

42. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Rapporteur should report on the matter directly to the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

⁴ *Ibid.*

*Resumed from the 1337th meeting.