

United Nations  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1253rd  
MEETING

Thursday, 7 November 1968,  
at 11 a.m.



NEW YORK

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 74</i>	
<i>Budget estimates for the financial year 1969</i> <i>(continued)</i>	
<i>General discussion (continued) . . . . .</i>	<i>1</i>

*Chairman:* Mr. G. G. TCHERNOUCHTENKO  
(Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic).

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1969 (continued)  
(A/7125, A/7205, A/7207, A/7236, A/7255, A/7280,  
A/7304, A/C.5/1169 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1175-1179,  
A/C.5/1182, A/C.5/1183, A/C.5/1185, A/C.5/L.943,  
A/C.5/L.944, A/C.5/L.947, A/C.5/L.948, A/C.5/  
L.950)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. FAURA (Peru) congratulated and thanked the Secretary-General for the clear and precise manner in which he had presented the precarious and dangerous financial situation of the United Nations in his statement to the Committee (A/C.5/1176). He also wished to congratulate the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, whose comments and recommendations would provide a basis for the Fifth Committee's decisions.

2. His delegation fully shared the views expressed by the Brazilian delegation at the 1240th meeting regarding the United Nations bond issue, the expansion of revenue-producing activities and the detailed survey of the deployment and utilization of personnel proposed by the Advisory Committee, and unreservedly endorsed the Brazilian representative's remarks. The survey of personnel proposed by the Advisory Committee would undoubtedly impose an added burden on the Secretariat, apart from the fact that it would be another in the series of the studies and recommendations made in the past on the subject of the Secretariat. Such surveys entailed large expenditures, and the question might even be raised whether the savings it was hoped to effect thereby might not prove rather costly. In the circumstances, his delegation felt that it would be premature to undertake the survey at the present time. In any event, it was confident that the Secretary-General would act prudently in the matter, taking into account the best interests of the United Nations.

3. The statements made so far in the general discussion of the budget estimates for 1969 had demonstrated the great importance of the question of salaries of United Nations officials. His delegation,

which shared the viewpoint of the Secretary-General, would vote in favour of the 5 per cent increase in the salaries of Professional staff proposed by ICSAB and against the draft resolution submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.5/L.947), if it were put to the vote. The dedicated, efficient and competent staff of the Secretariat should be given the credit due them, and the immense services which they rendered to the delegations of Member States deserved proper recognition. Some speakers had drawn attention to the precarious financial situation of certain categories of staff, particularly the security guards who, after 4 or 5 years of service, received no more than \$110 a week. In that connexion, he wondered whether any comparison had been made with the salaries received by security personnel employed at the White House. Moreover, there were other staff members whose work was indispensable to Member States and to the proper functioning of the United Nations, but of whom the delegations were not aware because they never came into contact with them. That was particularly true of the telephone operators, whose weekly wage of \$85 was certainly not comparable to the going rate in the private sector, and of the personnel working in the basements of the Headquarters buildings, whose working conditions left much to be desired. Finally, it would appear that certain staff members had had no promotion in 10 or even 15 years. In a city like New York, where the cost of living was particularly high, it was of the utmost importance that all United Nations employees should receive a decent wage.

4. His delegation felt, on the other hand, that the number of Secretariat staff was excessive. It recognized that the phenomenon was common to all bureaucracies, and that the political pressures on the Secretary-General in the field of recruitment were no doubt extremely strong, but it considered that Member States should impose a measure of self-discipline in that regard and should give the Secretary-General more latitude in all personnel questions, particularly recruitment.

5. Although his delegation did not have the figures it had requested and was basing its considerations on the estimates for 1968, it found that the principle of equitable geographical distribution was not being respected, one country being over-represented to an incredible degree in the highest-level Secretariat posts. That was an irregular situation, since it was difficult to believe that persons qualified to fill those posts could only be found in that one country. His delegation would welcome some clarification from the Secretary-General or his representative on that point. He noted, moreover, that, from February to June 1968, 39 out of 110 vacancies, or over 30 per cent,

had been filled by nationals of countries which were already over-represented. He would like the Secretary-General's representative to express an opinion on the possibility of deciding not to recruit any more nationals of those countries, except in special circumstances. There was no rule to the effect that, in the case of a vacancy, the post should go to a national of the same country as the previous holder of the post.

6. On the other hand, his delegation was satisfied with the efforts made by the Secretary-General to improve the linguistic balance within the Secretariat and was confident that Spanish would play the increasingly important role that it should have. It also considered that the introduction of a language bonus for staff with a knowledge of several working languages was completely justified.

7. Finally, his delegation would be very interested to hear the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the expansion of United Nations premises both at Headquarters and at Geneva, and he hoped that the decisions taken in that regard would enable the United Nations and its staff to work in the best conditions possible.

8. The criticisms and comments expressed by his delegation had been made in a constructive spirit and would not prevent it from voting in favour of appropriations requested by the Secretary-General, taking into account the Advisory Committee's recommendations. It reserved its right to comment on specific points during the consideration of the various sections of the budget.

9. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) said that the total budget estimates for 1969, reduced to \$138,316,950 by the Advisory Committee, represented a reduction of \$2,114,000, as compared with the 1968 budget (\$140,430,950), thus giving practical expression to the Secretary-General's desire to satisfy those who were concerned at the inflation and growth of United Nations expenditure and, at the same time, to find some way of alleviating the extremely serious financial difficulties which the United Nations had been experiencing since the crisis over Article 19 of the United Nations at the nineteenth session.

10. Two fundamental considerations emerged from the statements made by various delegations to the Fifth Committee: first, the desire to make the Organization an effective instrument serving all mankind, on the basis of the principles stated in the Charter; secondly, the ardent wish to restore the stability of the United Nations rapidly and find a satisfactory solution to the extremely serious crisis in which it found itself. His delegation thought that, the deficit having reached \$84 million, the time had come when theory and good intentions should give way to practical action. In that connexion, he wished to remind the members of the responsibility borne by the great economic Powers for the financial stagnation of the United Nations. In his opinion, the fact that a country made a large contribution to the budget did not give it the right to make the United Nations an instrument of its own policies; on the contrary, it had an obligation to help the United Nations to recover its true function. The function

of the United Nations was to serve the whole international community, and, if all Member States believed that to be so, the budgetary problems of the United Nations would be only a secondary issue. His delegation felt that in the Fifth Committee a distinction should be made between financial policy and the financial crisis. For that reason, it considered that Member States should spare no effort to ensure that the Committee was no longer merely a rubber-stamp, but a forum for the Secretariat in which financial commitments would be entered into only when justified by the policy decisions which must necessarily govern each section of the budget.

11. Although it was true that ten years earlier the United Nations had not been faced by budgetary difficulties, it should not be forgotten that the present situation was very different. The granting of independence to a large number of colonial countries had inevitably brought about a radical change in methods and had entailed the establishment and strengthening of new institutions, such as the United Nations UNIDO, UNDP, UNITAR and UNCTAD. Bearing in mind that situation, his delegation would always refuse to join those who sought, as a matter of strict policy, to tie the hands of the Secretary-General in his efforts to find a just solution to the problems of the international community notwithstanding the meagre resources available to the United Nations as against the ever-increasing demands made upon it by the poorer States.

12. His delegation had generally supported the budgetary estimates for the sections the Committee had considered in first reading. Nevertheless, it wished to point out that the inclusion of certain items in the budget estimates was a considerable obstacle to the proper functioning of the Organization. The items in question were the appropriations for the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and the United Nations Cemetery in Korea. It considered that the presence of foreign troops in Korea under the aegis of the United Nations was unacceptable and served only the interests of the imperialist Powers. It would never cease to denounce a situation which allowed United States troops stationed in Korea to commit acts of espionage and aggression against the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, as had been clearly demonstrated by the Pueblo affair. His delegation would state its position on the Korean question in the First Committee, but wished to reiterate that the reunification of Korea was a matter which concerned the Korean people and was not within the competence of the United Nations. For that reason, it demanded the immediate withdrawal of United States troops from Korea.

13. He also wished to make some general comments on the increasingly disturbing financial situation of the various categories of officials and employees of the United Nations Secretariat. United Nations employees, unlike their American counterparts, lived under conditions which demanded that a just decision should be taken as soon as possible to protect their interests. Between 1962 and 1968, workers in the General Service category had received a salary increase of only 10 per cent as against 27 per cent for employees in the same category in the Civil Service of the

United States of America. Over the same period, United States staff had received an increase of 28 per cent, compared with 19 per cent for their United Nations counterparts. From October 1966 to October 1968, salaries had risen by 4.5 per cent for General Service personnel, 5.2 per cent for unmarried Professional staff, and 7.4 per cent for married Professional staff. A salary adjustment for guides and manual workers was also imperative. The grievances of the staff, with which his delegation sympathized, were justified in view of the rise in prices of consumer goods in the United States. That rise was largely attributable to the unjust war imposed on the people of Viet-Nam by the United States of America. Whereas prices continued to rise, the salaries of United Nations staff remained almost frozen.

14. His delegation had also been struck by the difference in the rates of dependency allowances for the various categories of United Nations staff. It felt that all dependency allowances, whether payable to officials in the highest categories or to manual workers, should be standardized and fixed at the same rate.

15. Lastly, his delegation wished to convey its warmest thanks to the Secretary-General for the practical efforts made to turn the souvenir shops into real centres reflecting the cultures of the different Member States. It hoped that those efforts would continue and would culminate in the establishment of a museum in years to come.

16. In conclusion, he wished to reaffirm his Government's full support for the Secretary-General in his untiring efforts to bring about a reconciliation within the international community based on justice, peace and progress.

17. Mr. HAPPY TCHANKOU (Cameroon) said that the Organization's financial situation was cause for increasing concern and the Committee should therefore consider the budget estimates with greater care than ever before. He commended the Secretary-General for the great pains he had taken in the preparation and presentation of the budget, thus complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 2370 (XXII) and he also thanked the Advisory Committee for its excellent main report.

18. The gross estimates for 1969 amounted to \$140,520,210, not counting an additional amount of about \$10 million for certain items for which there were only pro memoria provisions. The large increase could be ascribed to the fact that the United Nations' field of endeavour was wider than ever and its activities were more and more costly. It did not seem possible to fix an optimum level of expenditure or an ideal rate of budgetary growth on the basis of purely financial considerations, since that might place a dangerous curb on United Nations economic and social development programmes and thus it came into conflict with the fundamental objectives of the Charter.

19. His delegation, bearing in mind the scrupulous manner in which the Advisory Committee had performed its task, supported the recommendation for a reduction of more than \$2 million in the estimated expenditures for 1969. Some delegations considered

that the reduction was not large enough, but it apparently could not be any larger without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the United Nations programme of work.

20. Leaving aside the expenses that the large number of conferences and meetings entailed, staff costs were the main cause of the growth in the budget. The total number of staff in all categories had been 7,833 in 1968, and the Secretary-General was requesting 607 new posts for 1969, which would bring the total number of established posts to 8,435. His delegation shared the view of the Advisory Committee that a maximum of 461 new posts would be sufficient to ensure the implementation of the Organization's essential activities and programmes in 1969. Full utilization of the present permanent staff should be sought through reorganization and better distribution of personnel. Accordingly, his delegation supported the recommendation contained in paragraph 50 of the Advisory Committee's main report (A/7207) that the Secretary-General should undertake a careful and detailed survey, preferably desk by desk, of existing personnel available to him, their deployment, and utilization.

21. Moreover, his delegation wished to reaffirm the principle of equitable geographical distribution of posts in the recruitment of personnel. Certain requirements which had to be met by candidates for Secretariat posts were too exacting for countries which had been independent for only a short time and the criteria used should be reviewed so that the developing countries could be better represented.

22. The principle of priorities should be observed in meetings and conferences, since that item of expenditure accounted for much of the increase in the budget. With regard to priorities, his delegation hoped that as a general rule, the United Nations budget would place greater emphasis on the programmes and organs concerned with development, of which UNIDO was a perfect example. Consequently, all States should endorse the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee for UNCTAD and UNIDO.

23. Lastly, his delegation, consistent with the principle it had always upheld, would support any appropriate measures to strengthen United Nations activities in the fields of decolonization and human rights.

24. His delegation would vote in favour of the budget for the financial year 1969 as recommended by the Advisory Committee, in the hope that more funds would be appropriated under sections 20 and 21, pertaining to UNCTAD and UNIDO, in the next budget.

25. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India) thanked the Secretary-General and the Controller for the detailed budget estimates they had prepared and complimented the Advisory Committee on the recommendations and thoughtful observations contained in its report. The gross estimates for 1969 amounted to approximately \$140.5 million, while the revised 1968 budget was \$141.78 million. The two figures might not be strictly comparable, since certain items in the estimates for 1969 had only been shown on a pro memoria basis. The Advisory Committee had indicated that the expenditure under those items would amount to

approximately \$10 million. Added to that, there would certainly be other expenditures resulting from the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fifth session and those which would be taken by the General Assembly at its current session. The total net expenditure for 1969 could thus amount to more than \$124 million, which represented an increase of \$7 million—approximately 6 per cent—over the net expenditure for 1968.

26. At the twenty-second session (1185th meeting) his delegation had drawn attention to the fact that the Fifth Committee, as the organ responsible for advising the General Assembly on administrative and budgetary questions, should review the evolution of the machinery set up to execute United Nations programmes, in order to determine guidelines for future policy. The Committee had been unable to give serious consideration to the problem at that time because it had been concentrating its attention on the question of the rate of growth in the budget and the introduction of a system of planning estimates to remedy that situation. The proposed system of planning estimates had been called the most concrete and timely measure that could be adopted to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.<sup>1/</sup> There was little doubt, however, that that proposal had been prompted by considerations other than those upon which the fourteen experts had based their recommendation.

27. There was a link between that central problem of establishing guidelines and the need for a constructive appreciation of the rationale and methodology of the constantly changing activities of the United Nations, activities which were reflected in financial terms in the budget estimates considered each year by the Fifth Committee. The budget was increasing at a rate which, considered objectively, could only be called modest. If it was recognized that the sum total of United Nations programmes represented part of the vital, though inadequate, joint efforts of the international community to safeguard and strengthen peace, the arguments put forward by Member States who objected to that increase lost much of their force. As the representative of Norway had observed at the 1249th meeting the sums invested in peace through the agency of the United Nations were insignificant in relation to the vast amounts that Governments spent on arms. The truth of the matter was that the activities of the United Nations had been extended simply because Member States had decided that new developments in science and technology must, as a matter of urgency, be put to use in developing countries to help them overcome their economic and social difficulties, and because the need to divert attention from the arms race to the expansion of resources and the acceleration of the development process called for United Nations involvement in an ever-increasing number of fields.

28. To meet those expanding requirements the Organization had been obliged to establish a complex system of organs and subsidiary organs, and in-

inevitably the number of deliberative bodies had multiplied. The Secretary-General in his turn had been compelled to provide additional staff to service those bodies; the proliferation of meetings and conferences which Member States had to attend and of the documentation which they were required to study was becoming a cause for concern. The concern was due not so much to the increased burden of costs imposed by those activities on Member States as to the physical problems of recruiting efficient staff, frequently at short notice, with salary scales which were by no means attractive in comparison to what ICSAB called world market rates.

29. It was at the nineteenth session that the General Assembly had decided to take a close look at its own affairs; the difficulties of the Organization had then been examined against the background of its serious financial situation. General agreement had been reached that there was room for better utilization of resources, greater co-ordination of activities and more efficient methods of management. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had in fact made recommendations to that effect which had been approved unanimously by the General Assembly. It was now possible to evaluate the efforts that had been made to implement those recommendations. To improve co-ordination a number of new bodies had been established requiring extensive documentation and additional staff to service their meetings. The report on the implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations was itself a voluminous document which had grown even larger as a result of the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee and endorsed by the Fifth Committee at the twenty-second session. The effort and cost of producing that document appeared to have been greater than the concrete results reported in it, particularly with regard to the adoption of an integrated long-term planning system and the correlation of the programming and budgetary processes. The Committee on Programme and Co-ordination had made some attempts to begin the rationalization of programmes, but once again only at the cost of producing documentation so voluminous that to study it effectively had proved very difficult. That Committee had made certain suggestions for improvements in the programmes, but its recommendations had not received the consideration they deserved. The Joint Inspection Unit had begun its work in Geneva, but the General Assembly had as yet little idea what proposals it had made or what improvements it had brought about. It was now said that the Joint Inspection Unit could not be expected to operate effectively unless its secretariat was enlarged. Moreover there was some apprehension that the work of the external auditors and that of the Inspection Unit might overlap in certain areas. The Committee on Conferences meanwhile had been making an effort to carry out its mandate, but it did not seem to possess sufficient authority to make any substantial improvement in the calendar of conferences and meetings.

30. At the twenty-second session the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2370 (XXII), by which it had sought to introduce a system of longer-term planning in the budgetary processes of the Organization. In response to the requests made by the

<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

General Assembly in that resolution the Secretary-General had adopted a new procedure for the formulation and presentation of the estimates relating to economic, social and human rights activities. That procedure had in turn made it necessary to establish a small internal review group composed of officials from the Office of the Controller and from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Committee on the Reorganization of the Secretariat, which had been asked to study the organization and functioning of the Secretariat, had just presented its report to the Secretary-General. It had now been proposed that a careful and detailed survey should be made, preferably desk by desk, of existing personnel in the Secretariat, their deployment and utilization. All those activities would certainly be useful, but it had to be recognized that a process so complicated, and the multiplication of efforts resulting from it, could easily cause confusion and, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had pointed out in his statement to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/1177); create unnecessary work in many areas.

31. The tendency to multiply reviewing and co-ordinating machinery, which had been apparent since the nineteenth session, had now reached alarming proportions. The infrastructure responsible for organization and methods was growing so fast that its efforts were now proving counter-productive. The situation was further aggravated by the measures which were being taken to put into effect the suggestions made by the numerous organs with a view to a more effective utilization of resources, stricter financial discipline or even economies and reductions in spending. In consequence, efforts were made to restrict the essential activities of the Organization, and the time had come for the Fifth Committee to recognize the seriousness of the problem and to try to establish more constructive guidelines for the future which might yield more fruitful results.

32. Many delegations had expressed concern about the financial problems of the Organization. Those difficulties related partly to the deficit and partly to the growing cost of United Nations activities. His delegation considered that a normal and healthy expansion of the activities of the United Nations was not only inevitable, but also indispensable in the quest for peace. It followed that Member States had a moral duty to meet their financial obligations to the Organization. At the same time the United Nations should certainly seek to finance part of its growing activities from its own revenues, and, in that connexion, the suggestions that had been made for an investigation of the possibilities of increasing the Organization's income deserved to be taken into consideration. His delegation would support any concrete and feasible proposals that might emerge.

33. Mr. EL BARADEI (United Arab Republic) said that the main objective of the United Nations was to maintain a just and lasting peace in the world. It was understandable that the budget of the Organization should grow as the scope of its activities expanded and, in so far as it was due to the development of its activities, that growth, far from being an unhealthy sign, was a clear indication of the Organization's vitality.

34. The delegation of the United Arab Republic welcomed the statement by the Secretary-General to the effect that the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were not unreasonable and need not cause any serious impediment to the execution of the work programmes.

35. Part V had been included in the budget estimates only on a pro memoria basis, mainly because the Industrial Development Board, in its resolution 11 (II)<sup>2/</sup> had recommended that the sum of \$1.5 million should be set as the planning level of the regular programme of technical assistance for industrial development, the cost of which was to be financed under section 14 of the regular budget for 1969, in order to leave UNIDO some flexibility in the conduct of its operational activities. It should be noted that, at its fifth session held in January 1968, the Governing Council of UNDP had considered a report by the Secretary-General<sup>3/</sup> on the appropriate planning level for the regular programme for 1969. The majority of the members of the Governing Council were in favour of increasing that amount by a minimum of \$1.32 million and had recognized that the proposed increase would barely enable the Secretary-General to provide Governments with the same volume of assistance as in 1962. The regular programme was of particular importance as a source of financing for many regional technical assistance projects. In fact, it was the only collective endeavour undertaken by the United Nations in the field of economic and social development and it would be in the interests of the Organization to respond favourably to the resolution of the Industrial Development Board and to increase the amount of the regular programme in order to make it possible to maintain at least the same volume of assistance as in 1962.

36. With regard to an integrated system of long-term planning, the Ad Hoc Committee had indicated in paragraph 73 of its report<sup>4/</sup> that the process would involve making those broad goals more specific by formulating the priority objectives to be accomplished by the organizations within the planning period. The introduction of an integrated system of long-term planning, programming and budgeting had assumed even more importance after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2370 (XXII) since such a system was essential for the establishment of planning estimates.

37. In the view of the delegation of the United Arab Republic, preparations for the second United Nations Development Decade were of cardinal importance. The Committee should ensure that the preparations were undertaken before the Secretary-General proposed the first planning estimate in 1969. The existence of a detailed work programme, prepared well in advance and having well defined priorities, would make it possible to ensure that the planning estimates were a true reflection of the needs of the Organization. In that connexion, he expressed appreciation for the steps taken or envisaged in that regard, in particular following the consideration by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and

<sup>2/</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 15, page 147.

<sup>3/</sup> Document DP/RP/4 (mimeographed).

<sup>4/</sup> See foot-note 1.

the Economic and Social Council of ways of improving the internal management of the Secretariat.

38. Certainly, the Advisory Committee could formulate more thorough and more far-reaching recommendations when it had before it during its consideration of the budget estimates the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work programme. The delegation of the United Arab Republic attached special importance to some of the recommendations formulated by that Committee in particular the proposal<sup>5/</sup> that the Secretary-General should prepare for the aforesaid Committee's first meeting in 1969 a general survey indicating broad areas of priorities among major fields of activities, and priorities within each programme. The recommendation of the Economic and Social Council requesting the programme-formulating bodies to classify activities into three categories according to their degree of priority was also very timely. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had also recommended that the reports of the functional commissions and of the regional economic commissions and their subsidiary organs, as well as the reports of conferences and seminars, should be submitted to it before they were referred to the Economic and Social Council in order to allow it to consider any new proposals and any proposed changes in the programme from the standpoint of priorities in the work programme. In its resolution 1367 (XLV), the Economic and Social Council had approved the recommendations and proposals of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning its future role, and conduct of its work, in programme matters. Similarly, in resolution 1378 (XLV), the Council had endorsed the plans of the same Committee to assist the Council and the General Assembly in the establishment of priorities within the United Nations and the formulation of programmes which would clearly meet the needs thus defined. He thought that those were constructive measures which would ensure a better utilization of resources.

39. With regard to the methods of work of the Secretariat, the Secretary-General had indicated that the time-table for the work of the budget review had been advanced by some four or five months and that for the first time all the departments of the Secretariat had been asked to submit a consolidated request calling for an integrated presentation of budgetary data and programme information. The main consequence of that improvement was that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination would have at its disposal, perhaps in April 1969, programme data and essential budgetary data which it could consider at the same time.

40. As for the increase in the staff, the Advisory Committee had proposed that only 441 new established posts should be established of the 607 which the Secretary-General had requested. The Advisory Committee had recognized that the Secretary-General should be provided with the necessary staff to cope with the growing tasks required of the Secretariat in the economic, social and human rights fields, but it had considered that the reduction which it had

proposed would still ensure the effective implementation of the essential programmes and activities of the Organization in 1969. The delegation of the United Arab Republic supported that recommendation as well as the recommendation that the Secretary-General should undertake, on an urgent basis, a careful and detailed survey, preferably desk by desk, of existing personnel available to him, their deployment and utilization. The results of that survey, which should be carried out by a group of Secretariat officials, could not fail to be of great help in assessing staff needs. In that connexion, he welcomed the establishment of the internal review group which should ensure that the staffing and other resources required for the implementation of the approved programme were both reasonably and accurately assessed.

41. The delegation of the United Arab Republic awaited with interest the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Public Information of the United Nations. The struggle against colonialism and apartheid was continuing and there was no need to emphasize the cardinal importance of publicity in that field. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in the introduction<sup>6/</sup> to his annual report on the work of the Organization, a large, sustained, co-ordinated and sharply focused information effort, both national and international, was indispensable if achievements were to match intentions, if means were to be married to ends and if reality was not to lag dangerously behind proclaimed goals. In that connexion, he was of the opinion that a review and reappraisal of United Nations information policies, procedures and practices would make it possible to determine the financial and other needs in that field and to enable the Office of Public Information to operate both effectively and economically. It should also be pointed out that the principle of equitable geographical distribution in posts in the Office of Public Information was not unconnected with the proper functioning of that Office.

42. Lastly, it should be pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee had recommended that requests for supplementary estimates should be submitted only in exceptional cases and that they should be reduced to a minimum. The delegation of the United Arab Republic awaited with interest the definition of "unforeseen and extraordinary expenses" that the Advisory Committee was to provide since that definition, which should not prevent the Secretary-General from dealing with situations beyond his control, particularly in the political and human rights fields, would enable requests for supplementary estimates to be placed in their proper perspective.

43. Mr. EL-ATTRASH (Syria) noted that despite the diversity of points of view, or even divergencies of opinion, there was obviously a strong desire on the part of all States to ensure the survival of the Organization. In the circumstances, it was all the more regrettable that there should be fears for its survival, which was currently threatened by the financial crisis into which the United Nations had been plunged as a result of the attitude of certain States. It was unforgivable that the whole inter-

<sup>5/</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 9, para. 10.

<sup>6/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 1A, para. 162.

national community should have to suffer the consequences of policies of aggression and economic oppression and of colonial and racist policies which were still very much in evidence in the world, and regrettable that the best-intentioned and most constructive expenditure should meet with criticism and be subject to restrictions. The financial crisis of the United Nations could only be resolved when the root causes had been eliminated. It was neither logical nor just that the community of peaceful nations should have to bear the financial burdens which resulted from the fact that certain Powers did not respect the principles which they had voluntarily undertaken to apply. It was only just that the parties responsible for situations which jeopardized world peace should bear all the consequences of their actions. To adopt any other point of view would be tantamount to encouraging such actions.

44. His delegation could approve only those appropriations which were designed to enable the United Nations to fulfil its functions in accordance with the spirit of its Charter. Accordingly, his delegation was opposed to the estimates for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea under section 12 and for the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea under section 17, which were designed for activities contrary to one of the basic principles of the Charter, namely, the principle of respect for fundamental human rights. The presence of foreign troops in Korea under the United Nations flag was intolerable.

45. His delegation was also unable to approve expenditures which were the result of mismanagement, such as those relating to the ECLA building in Santiago, Chile.

46. The question of the expansion of Headquarters premises, for which no estimate has as yet been submitted, deserved careful study by the Committee, since what was really at stake was whether the Organization's programmes and activities in the economic and social fields were to continue or be curtailed.

47. The proposal for salary increases should be examined in greater detail before a final decision was taken. The Committee should give special attention to the situation of General Service staff who should receive a higher increase, particularly since the post adjustment system was not always applicable to them.

48. Finally, with regard to recruitment, he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General should undertake a detailed study of the use of existing staff before recruiting any additional staff. His delegation would have some comments to make in due course on the interpretation of Article 101 of the Charter which dealt with recruitment. However, it wished to state forthwith that present recruitment practices did not leave Governments much choice.

49. Mr. GINDEEL (Sudan) noted with satisfaction that the initial estimates for 1969 had been prepared and presented with greater thoroughness and clarity than in previous years.

50. The Secretary-General, in his budget estimates for 1969, had submitted a request for appropriations

totalling \$140,520,210; additional requests amounting to \$10 million were expected to cover items for which only a pro memoria provision had as yet been made. Income for 1969 was estimated at \$25,059,240. The net requirements for 1969 were thus estimated at \$115,460,970, and if one took into consideration those items for which only pro memoria provision had been made, the net total would be in the region of \$125,500,000. The net requirement for 1968, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2363 (XXII), had amounted to \$116,795,950. If the 1968 supplementary estimates approved by the Fifth Committee were added to that figure, the total requirement for 1968 would come to \$118,107,750. Thus the anticipated requirements for 1969 showed an increase of \$7 million over those of 1968, or slightly less than 6 per cent.

51. While sharing the concern expressed by many delegations at the ever-increasing volume of expenditure and the consequent financial burden on Member States, his delegation maintained that the budget should be viewed not as an end in itself but rather as a means of achieving certain objectives. It should be seen in the light of what it had achieved and what it would achieve in the future. Its purpose was to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of international co-operation.

52. Such were the objectives which the United Nations was working to achieve, especially through its activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. Requests for assistance in those fields were increasing, and the Organization should not attempt to shun its ever-growing responsibilities. As the United Nations Development Decade, which would soon be coming to an end, had not achieved its objectives, it was clear that the developing countries would continue to need United Nations assistance; and their needs should receive due consideration and understanding from the international community.

53. The Organization could in fact respond to those needs without calling for additional funds or without excessively increasing the financial burden of Member States. It could achieve its objectives simply by attempting to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts - particularly those relating to the adoption of an integrated system of planning, programming and budgeting - and to utilize its human and material resources as effectively as possible. Measures had already been taken in that respect. As he had stated in the foreword to the budget estimates for the financial year 1969, the Secretary-General had set up an internal review group to evaluate the resources required by the various units in order to implement their programmes. As a further step, the Secretary-General should adopt the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a survey of existing personnel and their deployment and utilization. The proposed survey would, of course, entail additional work for the Secretariat, and he appreciated the Secretary-General's request that the survey be deferred for a few months and extended over a longer period. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the survey be undertaken either with the help of external management specialists, by the Administrative Management Service of the

United Nations, or by teams specifically selected for the purpose. The Secretary-General appeared to believe that the work should be undertaken by responsible officials who were fully aware of the special situation of the Secretariat. Such a method was entirely acceptable, although the services of external management specialists might be useful, since the conclusions of the survey would then be supplemented and supported by the recommendations of impartial experts.

54. Referring to the problem of reconciling work programmes with resources, the Secretary-General had stated that, in preparing the budget estimates, he was obliged to submit appropriation requests without reference to any particular priorities, as the relevant resolutions were not always explicit on that point. While the Secretary-General recognized that it was for the Member States themselves to establish an order of priorities on the basis of the decisions taken by them in the various principal organs, he believed that the Secretariat could help them by providing the programme-reviewing bodies with a more specific and co-ordinated appraisal of both past and proposed activities. The delegation of Sudan felt that such a procedure would be useful and it was in complete agreement with the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 35 of its, main report - namely, that if the Secretary-General had any doubts as to the timeliness or value of a new or existing programme, such doubts should be communicated to the competent body at the earliest possible moment.

55. Turning to part V, he recalled the recommendations of the Governing Council of UNDP and the Industrial Development Board concerning the appropriation under part V. The Committee was faced with two issues: first, the total appropriation under part V and, secondly, how the appropriation should be divided between sections 13, 14, 15 and 16. He was deeply concerned at the fact that the total appropriation for technical programmes had been maintained at \$6.4 million every year since 1962. In view of the rise in costs since 1962 - 21.6 per cent - it was obvious that the actual amount of assistance which could be given within those limits had significantly decreased,

not to mention the fact that since 1962 the number of developing countries receiving assistance had increased. He hoped that the Committee would take those factors into account when it considered part V.

56. With regard to the Organization's financial situation, he endorsed the general appeal that all States should overcome their differences of opinion, however profound, and should make voluntary contributions to wipe out the Organization's alarming deficit. As the Brazilian representative had rightly stated, the time was perhaps ripe for a study of new ways of increasing income.

57. He attached great importance to the implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations, but was disturbed to learn that there was already some evidence of overlapping and duplication in administrative and budgetary matters. Rapid action was required to check that phenomenon, which would obviously defeat the very purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee's proposals. The Advisory Committee would, he was sure, devote special attention to the problem and report to the Fifth Committee as necessary.

58. Since the Secretary-General had stated that the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were not unreasonable and need not cause any impediment to the execution of work programmes, his delegation would support the initial estimates for 1969, as modified by the Advisory Committee.

59. Mr. NASHER (United States of America), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, stated that his delegation thought that some of the remarks made by the Guinean representative had been inappropriate. Comments of a purely political nature were entirely out of place in a technical body such as the Fifth Committee.

60. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) said he had made it quite clear in his statement that the subject to which he had referred was on the agenda of the First Committee.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*