

Thursday, 20 November 1958,
 at 3.15 p.m.



NEW YORK

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Chairman: Sir Claude COREA (Ceylon).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Bandeira Guimaraes (Portugal), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 44

Budget estimates for the financial year 1959 (A/3997, A/4000, A/C.5/752, A/C.5/755, A/C.5/758) (continued)^{1/}

Revised estimates for sections 8 and 11 resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council (A/3997, A/C.5/758)

1. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the first sentence of paragraph 3 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/3997) might give rise to misunderstanding. He was sure that there was no intention of suggesting that the Secretariat had not been as strict with expenses that might ultimately be financed by the Mexican Government as with the Organization's own funds or that it had not acted in complete good faith.

2. Of the reduction of \$5,000 proposed by the Advisory Committee, \$2,000 related to staff costs and \$3,000 to miscellaneous expenses. Staff costs were completely within the control of the Secretariat, and if the suggestion was that a slightly less generous standard of services than usual should be supplied, that could be done. The figure for miscellaneous expenses, however, was only an estimate. But it was the best estimate that could be made, and it had been accepted by the Mexican Government. He would therefore like the assurance of

the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the recommended reduction of \$3,000 represented a target, and not a fixed ceiling on the amount reimbursable by the Mexican Government. If actual miscellaneous expenses exceeded the estimate, the normal procedure would be to seek reimbursement of the additional amount from the Mexican Government; if they were less than the estimate, the Mexican Government would be asked to reimburse less. The Secretary-General did not contest the proposed reduction as such.

3. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the Advisory Committee's statement in paragraph 3 was in the nature of an assumption that every effort would be made. He did not feel that any exception could be taken to such an assumption. As for the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, he realized that it was very difficult to say in advance exactly what the expenditure would be. While every effort should be made to keep within \$50,000, the Advisory Committee did not intend the proposed reduction to be interpreted so drastically as to cause the Controller anxiety.

4. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) said he was very glad to note that the first meeting to be held away from Headquarters under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII) would be held in Latin America. A debt of gratitude was due to the Mexican Government for its generous offer to defray the additional costs involved, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 (e) of the resolution in question. He would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

5. Mr. URQUIDI (Mexico) said his delegation hoped that the session in Mexico City would be a great success and that those attending it would enjoy their visit to Mexico.

6. The difference of \$5,000 in the amounts recommended by the Secretary-General and by the Advisory Committee posed a delicate problem for his Government, which had announced its readiness to cover the additional expenditure. On the basis of the figures provided by the Secretariat, his Government had already agreed to reimburse the full amount of \$55,000. It might find itself in a difficult position, if the Committee approved a lower figure and then, because of unforeseen contingencies, the final cost to be defrayed was higher than the approved figure. It might therefore be better to leave room for some flexibility and accept the Secretary-General's estimate.

7. Mr. TURNER (Controller) appreciated the cooperative and helpful attitude consistently demonstrated by the Mexican Government. Nevertheless, he felt that it would simplify the problem if the Committee acted on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, subject always to the proviso that miscellaneous expenses could not be estimated with absolute

^{1/} Resumed from the 681st meeting.

precision. The Secretariat would do its best to keep within the target-figure.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/3997, para. 3) that an additional amount of \$50,000, to be matched by income, should be made in the 1959 budget in connexion with the decision of the Economic and Social Council to hold its twenty-seventh session in Mexico City was approved by 57 votes to none.

Economic Commission for Africa (A/4000, A/C.5/755)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Abbas, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, took a place at the Committee table.

8. Mr. MANGASHA (Ethiopia) welcomed the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. His Government was looking forward to the establishment of the Commission in Ethiopia. It would do everything it could to make the Executive Secretary's task an easy one. He was sure that with the help of all Member States the establishment of the Commission would bring about an improvement in conditions in the African continent. It was important that the Commission's start should be a success; he therefore hoped that the Committee would approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4000).

9. Mr. GANEM (France) said that his delegation had always been in favour of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa. Accordingly, it was very happy to support the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee.

10. He hoped that in the recruitment of staff the Executive Secretary would bear in mind the need for ensuring balanced African geographical distribution. It was logical that after a brief initial period the great majority of the staff should come from Africa; but Africa was a vast continent with many nationalities and languages. Arabic, French and English were the three major languages in use; they might therefore some day be the working languages of the Commission's Secretariat, and it would be desirable for members of the Secretariat to know all three. Such people would not easily be found; indeed, for years to come many Africans would know only French or English. Care should be taken to make sure that no African group in the Commission felt that it had been discriminated against. In conclusion, he wished the new Commission every success.

11. Mr. DZIRASA (Ghana) congratulated the Executive Secretary on his appointment. The people of Africa regarded the General Assembly's decision to establish an Economic Commission for Africa as a sign of the world's recognition that the time had now come to open the door on to a continent once called dark. Africa was not dark because it had no civilization, but because little was known about its economic resources and the contribution it could make to the advancement of mankind. The Commission would study Africa's resources and its economic and social problems. His Government would give it its fullest co-operation. He supported the proposed estimate.

12. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) welcomed the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and wished it every success. The task of setting up its Secretariat would not be simple, and it might take time before the Commission's activities

could be properly organized. He therefore hoped that the Executive Secretary would not be too hasty in recruiting staff, and particularly in granting permanent contracts. Over-hasty recruitment might lead to disappointment, for the Executive Secretary might later feel that he had not found the best staff obtainable.

13. He agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that every effort should be made to co-ordinate the Commission's activities with the technical assistance programmes in progress in the area, in order to avoid any danger of duplication.

14. Mr. Cecil KING (Liberia) said that the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa represented the fulfilment of a long-standing wish of his Government. He welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had appointed an African as the first Executive Secretary. It should be borne in mind that the Commission's terms of reference specifically stated that in the recruitment of staff priority should be given to Africans. He wished to make it clear that by Africans he meant true Africans and not just people living in Africa. His Government would do everything it could to make the new Commission a success. He would vote in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

15. Mr. URABE (Japan) supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation and expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for generously making premises available pending the construction by it of a new building. He congratulated the Executive Secretary on his appointment and expressed his Government's good wishes for the success of the new Commission.

16. Mr. SAHNI (India) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and the appointment of Mr. Abbas as its first Executive Secretary. In supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendation he wished to draw special attention to the wise advice on the recruitment of staff set out in paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report. He agreed that "any hasty effort to fill a large number of posts may result in the creation of a group of staff of less than the highest competence and suitability". It would be wise to fill posts permanently at a later date, in the light of experience and as the various problems facing the Commission became apparent.

17. Mr. SOUIDI (Tunisia) and Mr. EL-ARABI (Libya) expressed their Governments' satisfaction at the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and their gratitude to all those who had made it possible. They supported the French representative's suggestion that Arabic, English and French should be the Commission's working languages.

18. Mr. ALLENDE (Chile), Mr. KWEEDJIEHOO (Indonesia), Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), Mr. DE PINIES (Spain) and Mr. EL MESSIRI (United Arab Republic) joined previous speakers in welcoming the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and expressing their best wishes for its success.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4000, para. 7) for an appropriation of \$500,000 under section 6 (a) was approved on first reading by 63 votes to none.

19. Mr. ABBAS (Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa) thanked the members of the

Committee for their kind words, which would encourage him in the task confronting the Economic Commission for Africa and its Executive Secretary. He had felt honoured when the Secretary-General had asked him to serve as Executive Secretary, and he hoped that the confidence of the Secretary-General, the Committee and his fellow Africans would prove justified. He would bear in mind the comments made in the Committee about the recruitment of staff and other matters.

Mr. Abbas, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, withdrew.

Organization of the Secretariat: Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Technical Assistance Administration (A/C.5/752) (continued) ^{2/}

20. The SECRETARY-GENERAL recalled that at the previous session he had announced his decision in principle to proceed with the amalgamation of the Technical Assistance Administration and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs^{3/} and the Advisory Committee had recommended that that step should be taken early in 1958.^{4/} The Fifth Committee, however, had asked him to postpone the implementation of his plan and to submit a further report on the matter. In deference to the views expressed during the debates, he had personally re-examined the various aspects of the question and had asked two of his colleagues, who had not previously been concerned with it and could therefore bring to it a completely fresh approach, to undertake an independent study. Their findings had fully confirmed his own view that the time had come when amalgamation could and should be implemented. He had, however, been anxious to take the fullest account possible of the observations made in the Fifth Committee at the previous session and, for that reason, certain changes had been introduced in the organizational scheme of the top-level structure originally suggested. It was now open to delegations to state their views on his report (A/C.5/752), and he would give the closest attention to the opinions expressed. In view of the interest shown in the Committee, he would be happy to submit in 1959 a progress report on the implementation of the plan for consideration by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee.

21. Replying to various points raised in the Committee, he stressed that it had at all time been his desire to enhance the value of the technical assistance programme. Recent experience had shown that advice to Governments, particularly those of newly independent countries, on general economic, financial and social policies had become one of the major functions of the United Nations. The Organization could not rely entirely on outside experts to do that work; it should be viewed as a fundamental and continuing function to which a great part of the substantive resources of the Secretariat, both at Headquarters and in the regions, were constantly devoted. The gradual improvement of United Nations services in those fields would be of benefit not only to the recipient Governments but also to the prestige and status of the programme. He found it difficult to see how it could be argued—as it had been at the previous session—that amalgamation would lead

to the "downgrading" of the programme, for it had been designed to do exactly the opposite. He had, however, been most anxious to meet that argument and, since it had been directly linked to the problem of the top-level structure responsible for the administration of the programme and for the relationship with Governments, he had modified his earlier scheme by introducing a post of Commissioner with the rank of Under-Secretary. The incumbent of that post would have the special responsibilities outlined in paragraph 8 (b) of his report. With that revised version of his plan, any apprehension of a "downgrading" should be dissipated.

22. It had been said that his report contained no detailed information on the reorganization and its administrative and financial consequences. He agreed completely with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that it was too early for such a detailed analysis. It would be quite unrealistic to expect the details of reorganization at the base to be worked out prior to the unification of the Department at the top. That was why he had limited himself to outlining the broad features of the reorganization. In that connexion, he drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 9 of his report which spoke of a detailed review of internal procedures, for the purpose of streamlining the administration of the Department, to be undertaken following amalgamation. Such a review would have to be conducted over a period of time and a great deal of caution must be exercised in making changes. But the fact that all the features of a plan were not known in advance did not mean that there were not sufficient elements to judge its soundness. In the past, the Advisory Committee had not hesitated to recommend amalgamation or other organizational reforms on broad grounds of logic, substance and administration. Any detailed analysis before the proposed review had been conducted would necessarily contain a number of speculative elements. He assured the Committee that the review would be thorough-going and would take into account all the elements involved. In the meantime, he and his colleagues were ready to answer any questions which the Advisory Committee might wish to ask, if the Committee decided to refer the matter back to it.

23. In conclusion, he pointed out that, since the new version of the plan had been worked out after the budget estimates for 1959 had been prepared, those estimates contained no provision for the post of Commissioner as such. In terms of appropriations, however, the establishment of the post meant only the difference between an Under-Secretary's emoluments and those of a Director with a special duties' allowance. He had not therefore felt it necessary to submit revised estimates, although Assembly approval of the post level would be necessary. He intended, as a temporary arrangement, to retain a position of Under-Secretary for Public Administration. The recent debate in the Second Committee on the appointment of persons with executive responsibilities under the technical assistance programme amply confirmed his view that that was a highly delicate question on which he would want the attention and advice of a very senior officer until the matter had been further explored and experience gained. He would report to the Committee on that subject, as well as others, at the following session.^{5/}

^{2/} Resumed from the 681st meeting.

^{3/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Annexes, agenda item 41, document A/C.5/728.

^{4/} See Ibid., document A/3762.

^{5/} The complete text of the statement made by the Secretary-General was distributed as document A/C.5/767.

24. Mr. LAGUMBAY (Philippines) recalled that at the 681st meeting his delegation had supported the Indian proposal that the Advisory Committee should re-examine and submit a formal report on the Secretary-General's report; it had felt that that procedure would provide additional information for the Committee's guidance in considering the merger of the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/752). The Philippines, as a direct beneficiary of the United Nations technical assistance programme, was anxious to ensure that any change was for the better.

25. In considering the steps to create a unified Department set forth in paragraphs 8 and 10 of the Secretary-General's report, the Committee should be guided by two considerations: economy and efficiency. With regard to the latter, the Secretary-General was quite explicit (para. 6) regarding the advantages expected from the change; as chief administrative officer of the United Nations he was best qualified to evaluate the merits of the proposal, and his views were acceptable to the Philippine delegation, especially in the light of his professed intention not to modify, but to give full effect to, the principles and policies regarding technical assistance laid down by the legislative organs of the United Nations (para. 2).

26. So far as concerned the first of the two considerations—economy—the prospects emerged less clearly from the report, and the Indian delegation had been justified in making its proposal. The Philippine delegation, however, relied on the Secretary-General's ability and integrity and assumed that he had given the matter due attention in the course of his careful study of all aspects and implications; it would therefore vote for his proposals.

27. Mr. KWEEDJIEHOO (Indonesia) felt that even after hearing the statement just made by the Secretary-General, the Committee should before taking a decision take steps to secure detailed information on the benefits offered by his proposals, in terms of economy and efficiency, and a report from the Advisory Committee, as proposed by the Indian delegation.

28. Mr. HSIA (China) felt that the Secretary-General, in his extremely concise and clear report and in the statement he had just made, had amply clarified the proposal for the merger. The Chinese delegation agreed with the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 2 of his report that the time had come for the establishment of a unified Department encompassing both the substantive and the operational sides of the Secretariat's work in the economic and social field.

29. The concern his delegation had expressed at the twelfth session (642nd meeting) over the proposed merger had been based on three fears: that a single Department representing the fusion of three formerly separate units might prove unwieldy and that its Under-Secretary might be overburdened with responsibility to the extent of slowing down the Department's operations; that the Under-Secretary might be unable to give the technical assistance programme the priority it received under existing arrangements; and that the staff reorganization involved might have a disruptive effect both at Headquarters and in the field.

30. Paragraphs 2 and 7 of the Secretary-General's report had largely removed those fears; the proposal

to appoint a Commissioner for Technical Assistance was designed to preserve a clearly identifiable entity for that part of the new Department's work. In the short run some disorganization was only to be expected; but even the present arrangements were not perfect. His delegation would support the Secretary-General's proposals, both for the reasons he (Mr. Hsia) had given and because the Secretary-General had emphasized research and co-ordination as the keys to the future development of technical assistance, and intended to bring all the resources and knowledge of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to bear on that sphere of activity. The result should be to improve the quality and clarify the aims of technical assistance; the detailed review of internal procedures referred to in paragraph 9 should prove useful, and it was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would make a periodic review of programmes in both the research and the technical assistance fields.

31. Mr. URQUIDI (Mexico) observed that the successive discussions on the proposed merger since the ninth session of the General Assembly appeared to have produced no narrowing of the gap between, on the one hand, the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee, which viewed the problem as an administrative one, and on the other hand, the delegations opposed to the merger, which at the twelfth session had emphasized the special nature of the services rendered to Member States by TAA. The Secretary-General's report and representatives' statements during the present discussion had done little to advance the situation.

32. It was natural that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should seek to give general guidance in technical assistance activities and to benefit from TAA's experience, but there was nothing to prevent it from doing either under the existing arrangements, given the necessary co-operation and high-level co-ordination between the two offices. Their respective basic functions, however, should be kept distinct. In the course of its work, TAA had to maintain with the Governments it assisted a different relationship from that of other Secretariat departments; the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was employed chiefly in preparing studies and reports and in conducting inquiries on behalf of United Nations organs. To subordinate TAA to the Department would be to the detriment of the Secretariat's work. Furthermore, Governments, at present the final authorities on the technical assistance they were to receive, would be liable to be overruled by the Department; under the existing arrangements the latter merely advised TAA, and left final decisions to be negotiated with Governments.

33. His delegation had been alarmed at the thesis advanced by the Swedish representative at the twelfth session (641st meeting) that the Department should have a decisive influence upon the execution of programmes. Economic and Social Council resolution 700 (XXVI), to mention only the most recent of many similar decisions, made it perfectly clear that Governments had the paramount role in planning technical assistance; it was a role which they were best qualified to play, and did not prejudice consultations with TAA, the secretariats of the regional economic commissions or the Department.

34. The controversy over the proposed merger appeared to have reached a stage at which the senior staff of TAA had not been kept intact; care should be taken

to avoid any further loss of experienced officials of recognized standing whose services were greatly appreciated by the Governments receiving technical assistance.

35. With goodwill on the part of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, and in the light of the discussions so far, it should be possible for the Secretariat to establish the necessary co-ordination and co-operation between the two offices without changing the basic organization or chains of command. His delegation supported the Indian proposal on the necessity for the Advisory Committee to submit a further report; in compiling its report, the Advisory Committee should take due account of the present discussion.

36. Mr. AMATAYAKUL (Thailand) considered that the Secretary-General was wise to keep under constant review the organizational structure of a Secretariat whose activities and tasks had changed considerably over the years. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs had been envisaged from the outset as a body devoted mainly to research and to assisting Governments in economic negotiations previously handled by international conferences. The technical assistance activities of the United Nations, a later development, had originally been based on specific programmes, in most cases individually requested by Governments; and since the inauguration of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance it had been realized that the scheme affected the economic development of vast parts of the world, with concomitant political and social effects.

37. In the circumstances it was proper to undertake a review of organizational structure; such a step was no reflection on the excellent and devoted service of the Director-General of TAA and his staff. Just as technical assistance had evolved from the operation of individual projects to a matter of broad international economic policy, so the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was increasingly concerned with technical assistance problems and their impact on its own traditional field of activity. Separate administration of the two offices had become an anomaly; and a rational, unified administrative structure would relieve their staffs of the resulting burden of co-ordination.

38. The proposed merger was designed to increase the usefulness and efficiency of both the Department and TAA while preserving the satisfactory features, the principles and policies and the separate identity of the latter. Particular interest attached to the Secretary-General's proposals for the public administration programme and related programmes designed to assist Governments in forming their economic policies—programmes which had been most obviously affected by divided responsibility. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the Secretary-General's proposals; the Secretary-General might wish to inform the Committee at the fourteenth session of the progress of the unification plan and, in particular, of the resultant economies.

39. Mr. LEVYCHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation did not feel that the Secretary-General's report provided an adequate basis for judgement whether the merger was advisable or not. That view appeared to be shared by some other delegations.

40. In order to come to a decision on the merger, the Fifth Committee needed information on four points:

how it would affect the needs of the under-developed countries requiring technical assistance; whether administrative efficiency would be improved; what reductions in staff would result, and what financial savings would be achieved. Information on those points was not provided either in the Secretary-General's report or in the statement he had just made.

41. The Soviet delegation accordingly considered that the correct course would be to ask the Secretary-General to reconsider his report and provide additional information on the four points in question; the supplementary report could then be referred to the Advisory Committee for its comments, and the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the additional information and comments received, would then be able to come to a decision on the merits of the proposed merger.

42. Mr. FOBES (United States of America) said that his delegation favoured the integration of technical assistance activities with the more traditional functions of secretariats not only so far as the principle concerned the United Nations but also so far as it concerned the specialized agencies. Economic and Social Council resolution 222 A (IX) (annex I, para. 2) called on all the specialized agencies to ensure close integration of their technical assistance projects with their regular work; that should also apply to the United Nations. Such integration should improve the effectiveness of the Organization's general economic and social activities, a consideration which had obviously been more borne in mind by others who had spoken in the present debate—in particular, the representatives of China and Thailand.

43. The Fifth Committee had very rightly confined itself to discussing the broad organizational principles involved; the detailed organizational arrangements were the responsibility of the Secretary-General. He was glad that the Secretary-General was keeping the Fifth Committee informed of his organizational arrangements; he looked forward to receiving a report at the next session on the action that the Secretary-General would now be taking. His delegation was prepared to accept the Secretary-General's report.

44. Mr. URABE (Japan) said that his delegation was fundamentally in favour of the proposed merger. However, he felt that as described in the Secretary-General's report the merger would be nominal rather than substantive; he believed that might be the reason why the Advisory Committee had felt unable to comment on the report. He would like the Secretary-General to indicate how far a substantive merger could be achieved, but at the present stage he would be prepared to accept the proposals outlined in the Secretary-General's report.

45. With regard to the proposal in paragraph 8 (b) of the report that there should be two Under-Secretaries, one at the head of the unified Department, and one working under him with the title of Commissioner for Technical Assistance, he agreed with the Indian representative's comment at the 681st meeting that such an arrangement would not be conducive to administrative efficiency. The Secretary-General, who had many other tasks to perform, might not be able to attend meetings of the proposed planning board (paragraph 8 (d)); and as that board would be under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary in charge of the unified Department, difficulties might arise in the event of any difference of opinion between him and the Com-

missioner for Technical Assistance. He hoped that the Secretary-General would give further thought to that point, and that he would be able to achieve a real streamlining of the administration.

46. Mr. MANGASHA (Ethiopia) thanked the Secretary-General for his interest in the debate and the statement he had just made; it appeared that he had no objection to making additional information available to the Advisory Committee, which would thus be able to present the report that many representatives had requested. It was not necessary for the Secretary-General to furnish a supplementary report; it would be sufficient if he provided the Advisory Committee with additional information, so that the latter could submit a report taking into account the four points mentioned by the representative of the Soviet Union. Many under-developed countries represented on the Fifth Committee felt that the proposed merger was a very serious matter; before it could be approved, therefore, all possible information must be made available.

47. Mr. PAREJA (Peru) said that he had stated his delegation's views on the proposed merger at the 666th meeting. The merger might result in economies, but it might also impair the efficiency of the technical assistance programme. Thus far the programme had worked smoothly. The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of TAA—whose resignation was much regretted by all Latin American countries—were fully aware of all the problems involved and had all the necessary information at their fingertips; it would hardly be possible for the Under-Secretary in charge of the unified Department, which would be very large, to be equally familiar with technical assistance matters. Moreover, the merger might have the effect of introducing a more bureaucratic spirit.

48. His delegation considered that the question was not ripe for final action. The Advisory Committee should therefore be asked to indicate what savings would be effected by the merger and to provide any other information the Fifth Committee might need before it could take a sound decision. A hasty decision would not be in the best interests of the technical assistance programme; he therefore suggested that the matter should be postponed until next year.

49. Mr. REINA (Honduras) said that in research work of the kind carried on by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs efficiency was not increased by multiplying tasks. The fact that integration might be possible in the specialized agencies did not necessarily mean that it was feasible in the United Nations Secretariat; in an organization dealing with a specialized field the same staff might be responsible for planning, research and field work, but that was hardly possible in the United Nations, which covered a much wider economic and social area. The effect of the merger might be that the head of the unified Department would

consider himself entitled to intervene in the internal affairs of States, and to deal with individual requests for technical assistance on the basis of general economic theory. The proposed Planning Board might develop into an advisory body with excessive power, which might attempt to dictate to Governments the form of technical assistance they should ask for.

50. His delegation would oppose the merger, since it believed that no improvement in substance or form would result, and that the consequence might be to hamper the technical assistance programme. In any event, he considered that the debate should be postponed until a fuller report was available.

51. Mr. MONTERO DE VARGAS (Paraguay) moved the adjournment of the debate until the following meeting, under rule 117 of the rules of procedure.

The motion was adopted by 32 votes to 5, with 30 abstentions.

AGENDA ITEM 45

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly (continued) 6/

(b) Committee on Contributions (A/3841, A/C.5/L.528)

52. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that under rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly the members of the Committee on Contributions must be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. King (Liberia) and Mr. Alvarado (Venezuela) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	68
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	67
<u>Abstentions:</u>	1
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	66
<u>Required majority:</u>	34
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Raymond T. Bowman (United States of America)	65
Mr. F. Nouredin Kia (Iran).	64
Mr. Jerzy Michalowski (Poland)	61

Mr. Bowman (United States of America), Mr. Nouredin Kia (Iran) and Mr. Michalowski (Poland) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended that they should be appointed members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning 1 January 1959.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

6/ Resumed from the 675th meeting.