



CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 61:</i>	
<i>Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1962 (continued)</i>	11

Chairman: Mr. Jan Paul BANNIER
(Netherlands).

AGENDA ITEM 61

Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1962
(A/5223, A/5239) (continued)

1. Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) emphasized the need for a clear definition of "unforeseen and extraordinary expenses", a need which had been pointed out by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its main report (A/5207), and endorsed the remarks on the supplementary estimates made by the USSR and Australian representatives at the 915th meeting. According to the statement made by the Controller at that meeting, such expenses came under three headings, namely, expenses incurred under the first part of paragraph 1 and paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of General Assembly resolution 1735 (XVI), statutory expenses resulting from the application of the Staff Rules and Regulations, and expenses arising out of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions.

2. The expenses under the first heading had largely been incurred because some of the Main Committees at the sixteenth session had adopted decisions involving the creation of subsidiary bodies too late for rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to be applied. As the Fifth Committee had not had time to consider the financial implications of those decisions or to vote the appropriations to cover them, it had been necessary to find the funds under resolution 1735 (XVI); but that was a misuse of the resolution, for the expenses had not really been unforeseen. The Advisory Committee had drawn attention to that point in paragraphs 18 to 20 of its main report and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had pointed out that if rule 154 of the rules of procedure was strictly applied, the situation would not arise.

3. It must not arise in future. He therefore proposed that the Fifth Committee should address a letter to the other Main Committees, drawing their attention to the necessity for strict compliance with rule 154, in other words, for considering proposals involving financial implications early enough in the session for the Fifth Committee to study those implications. Another point to which the attention of the Main Committees should be drawn was the need to give clearly defined terms of reference to any subsidiary organs

that they decided to establish. As the Advisory Committee pointed out in paragraph 20 of its main report, the fiscal authority of the General Assembly could not be completely delegated to a subsidiary organ.

4. Expenses arising out of the application of the Staff Rules and Regulations, which were largely due to the rise in the cost of living, were unavoidable and rightly came under resolution 1735 (XVI).

5. The same could not be said of the expenses arising out of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions. He strongly endorsed the Advisory Committee's comment, in paragraph 14 of its report on the matter (A/5239), that such expenditures need not be met by supplementary estimates in the current financial year and should be included in the budget estimates for the following year. Although there might sometimes be exceptions, that rule should generally be observed. He felt that the Council did not give sufficient consideration to the financial implications of the resolutions it adopted and made no effort to assign priorities to the projects it approved. The Fifth Committee had already appealed to the Council to consider the question of priorities, but so far with little result.

6. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the supplementary estimates. The total might be rather less than the Advisory Committee's figure, because income, particularly income from investments, would probably be higher than the Advisory Committee's estimate.

7. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that the decision-making bodies of the United Nations were responsible for the increase in the supplementary estimates, which were almost four times as large as those for 1961. Although considerations of economy should not prevent the Organization from carrying out its tasks and all unforeseen expenditure could not be avoided, care should be taken to observe proper budgetary procedures.

8. In sounding a note of warning about supplementary estimates and particularly in striving to prevent the concept of "unforeseen and extraordinary expenses" from becoming too vague, the Advisory Committee had echoed the concern of many delegations. In its main report (A/5207), it stressed the responsibilities of the decision-making bodies of the United Nations in that respect; delegations must face the unavoidable fact of their own responsibility for the financial results of the decisions they approved. As the recommendations set out in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the Advisory Committee's main report and in paragraphs 12 to 15 of document A/5239 were directly concerned with preserving the fiscal authority of the General Assembly and with ensuring sounder financial practices without hampering the operations of the United Nations, they should be brought to the attention of the

Main Committees and of the Economic and Social Council. Particular attention should be given to the procedure recommended in paragraph 12, which it should be possible to apply without much difficulty. Such rules should be observed not only for reasons of sound budgetary practice but because of the financial crisis which the Organization was now facing.

9. He welcomed the objective and constructive character of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which he strongly supported.

10. Mr. HODGES (United Kingdom) said that the question of the supplementary estimates was particularly serious in 1962, not only because of the amounts involved but because of the important principles of budgetary control that were at stake.

11. He supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraph 19 of its report (A/5239). Although he had no other specific proposals to make, he wished to emphasize some general considerations which could not be over-emphasized at a time when the United Nations was in grave financial difficulties and the increase in its membership continued and there was growing pressure for the expansion of its activities.

12. The way in which additional expenditures had been incurred in 1962 revealed very serious shortcomings in the application of budgetary procedures. He endorsed most of the comments made by previous speakers on that point, particularly by the representative of Australia. He was grateful to the Advisory Committee for drawing attention to the main remedies that were available. The principal points which emerged from the reports of the Advisory Committee (A/5207, paras. 18 to 20, and A/5239, paras. 12 to 14) were easily summarized. First, the procedures laid down in regulation 13.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly must be strictly observed. Secondly, the business of all United Nations bodies must be organized in such a way as to ensure that those rules could be respected in practice. Thirdly, all organs should refrain from adopting resolutions involving additional expenditure once the budget for a given year had been adopted. Fourthly, care should be taken not to abuse the provisions of the annual resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures. Lastly, subsidiary bodies should not be allowed so much financial latitude as they had enjoyed in 1962, thus usurping the financial prerogatives of the General Assembly. He expressed the hope that all United Nations organs would be urged to apply those five rules and strongly supported the Iraqi representative's proposal.

13. Mr. BENDER (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the views of the Advisory Committee and most of what had been said by previous speakers. His country was concerned at the growing tendency to incur expenditure above the levels authorized in the regular budget and then to submit requests for the necessary appropriations in the supplementary estimates; such estimates should cover expenditure which was truly of an emergency nature and had been verified as such. In particular, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's observation that United Nations bodies should subject to the closest scrutiny any recommendations that might require increased expenditure in the current year, and that Assembly Committees, when taking decisions with financial implications for a subse-

quent year, should do so early enough to enable the Fifth Committee to make a full examination of such implications.

14. His delegation did not agree with everything that had been said about supplementary estimates. For instance, it regretted the remarks made by the USSR representative at the 915th meeting concerning the provision in the revised estimates relating to the United Nations Representative on the Question of Hungary; his remarks concerning the possible reasons for the payment of those costs were grossly unfair to all concerned. Secondly, he had criticized the Secretariat for embarking upon projects which had not been approved for the current year and for violating budgetary rules by spending money on projects which were not of major or urgent importance; he had suggested that such action was particularly reprehensible since it placed a financial burden on all Member States, many of which already had difficulty in paying their regular assessments.

15. Since such projects had been brought up by the USSR, it might be useful to inquire into a particular project included in the supplementary estimates for section 4—Common staff costs—namely, the Russian language training programme. When the Secretary-General had informed the Advisory Committee of that new project earlier in the year, he had indicated that he expected to absorb the costs of the programme for 1962 within the approved appropriations for that year. In order to avoid any misunderstanding with reference to that item, his delegation would appreciate further information on the following points: the need for that unusual programme—since it was somewhat surprising that qualified Russian translators could not be recruited without what appeared to be a special and costly programme to which all Member States would contribute; possible alternative methods of obtaining such personnel; whether the benefits of the programme would accrue to the membership as a whole or to one particular Member State only; the net annual cost of the programme to the United Nations; whether there was any foreseeable need to continue the programme after 1963; what specific types of training were being given under the programme; and finally, whether any individuals trained under the programme had yet arrived at Headquarters and, if so, when others were expected. Answers to those questions would be helpful to the Committee when it came to consider the budget estimates for 1963, which included a similar item. Finally, his delegation would welcome a more detailed explanation than that given in the Secretary-General's report (A/5223) of the reasons why it had not been possible to absorb the 1962 costs of the language training programme.

16. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the recruitment of qualified translators, précis-writers and interpreters had never been an easy undertaking in regard to any of the languages used by the United Nations. The considerable growth in the number of international organizations in recent years had made it even more difficult to find qualified candidates, since most of those organizations required the same categories of language personnel. The difficulties of recruiting Russian language staff had been even greater, the recruitment of such personnel being essentially limited to one geographical area. In the early years of the Organization, it had been possible to recruit Russian language staff in North America and in Europe, but for obvious reasons that source of

recruitment was now virtually exhausted. Furthermore, there had been complaints from the Russian-speaking delegations that the Russian used by such staff was poor and out of date.

17. Various measures had been taken to improve recruitment techniques for the various languages. United Nations language staff were normally recruited by means of competitive examinations and the standards set by the United Nations were extremely high. In the case of the Russian language, however, the only possible way of finding qualified staff was through the co-operation of the USSR authorities, since obviously the best staff could be recruited from the Russian-speaking area of the world. The Secretary-General had therefore undertaken negotiations with the USSR authorities with the result that a small recruitment centre had been established in Moscow through an agreement with the Moscow Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages, under which the costs of the project were shared between the Institute and the United Nations.

18. The 1962 programme provided for the training of twenty-two suitably qualified university graduates. The students were trained in accordance with a programme approved by the United Nations, which provided for a period of ten months' full-time study.

19. As part of the curriculum, the trainees also undertook the translation of some of the United Nations backlog of documents; it was expected that some 8,500 pages would be translated during the course. In the absence of that arrangement, the translation would have had to be undertaken on a contractual basis elsewhere at a cost to the United Nations of at least \$85,000.

20. Students entered the school on the understanding that, if they passed the final examination and were offered an appointment by the United Nations, they would accept such an appointment for a period of three years and perform the duties of an interpreter or translator at any United Nations office to which they might be assigned.

21. It was thus hoped that the course would provide a ready source for the recruitment of Russian language staff to meet not only present, but also future staff requirements. No difficulty was envisaged in offering appointments to all successful candidates from the 1962 course. Provision had been made in the 1963 budget estimates (A/5205) for the continuation of the course at approximately the same level. The need to continue the course beyond 1963 would depend on the number of successful candidates it produced and on Secretariat requirements. The matter would certainly be reviewed in connexion with the preparation of the 1964 budget estimates. The Secretary-General had provided the Advisory Committee with detailed information on the course before it had been instituted and had later submitted a progress report to that Committee.

22. Since the existence of the course had become more widely known, several specialized agencies had indicated their interest in participating in the arrangement. The Secretary-General might also need to consider making some similar arrangement to facilitate the recruitment of Russian typists, who were also becoming increasingly difficult to find in North America.

23. With regard to the total cost of the programme to the United Nations, the figure of \$101,200 included

in the supplementary estimates for section 4—Common staff costs—represented the gross cost; if the saving of \$85,000 on contractual translation was taken into account, the net cost would have been very much less. The United States representative had further asked why the cost had not been absorbed in the regular budget, as had been originally anticipated. There would have been no difficulty in absorbing the entire amount had it not been for several unforeseen sources of expenditure such as the various special conferences held at Geneva and the United Nations Mission in Rwanda and Burundi.

24. The Secretary-General was convinced that the need to recruit the required language staff was implicit in the General Assembly's rules of procedure and that the costs should consequently be covered by the regular budget. Recruitment programmes such as the Russian language training course benefited the whole membership of the United Nations, not any one Member State alone.

25. Mr. HUSAIN (India) said that his delegation fully appreciated the reasons for the large supplementary appropriations requested by the Secretary-General. It supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 19 of its report (A/5239) and welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had agreed to the reduction proposed.

26. His delegation also endorsed the recommendations on financial procedures contained in paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of that report. There could be no doubt that the size of the supplementary estimates in recent years had been due to the disregard of regulation 13.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The decision-making bodies of the United Nations should define the nature and scope of the tasks to be undertaken under any resolutions they adopted, and proposals involving expenditure should be taken up early enough in the session for the Fifth Committee to be able to consider their impact on the budget estimates. Failure to observe that procedure at the sixteenth session had enabled subordinate bodies to escape the financial control of the General Assembly.

27. Recommendations had been made by previous speakers regarding procedures to be adopted by the other Main Committees and the Economic and Social Council. Rule 154 obviously must be strictly applied; but rule 155, which required the Secretary-General to keep all committees informed of the detailed estimated cost of all resolutions, was complementary to it and no less important. It appeared, however, to have fallen into disuse, which was regrettable.

28. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that rule 155 had not fallen into disuse. On the contrary, the Secretariat strove to ensure that it was respected on all occasions. Sometimes, however, the response to its application had not been all that could have been hoped.

29. Mr. ILIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation's attitude to the practice of submitting supplementary estimates was well known: such estimates should be greatly curtailed and restricted to "unforeseen and extraordinary expenses". Unfortunately, the expenses included in the supplementary estimates for 1962 could hardly be regarded in that light. In any case it was premature to establish supplementary estimates so early in the year. By November 1962 it would be

possible for the Controller to inform the Committee what savings were likely to be made on the regular budget and the Committee could then decide, in the light of that information, how far the supplementary estimates were really necessary. Meanwhile, his delegation fully supported the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee in its reports (A/5207 and A/5239).

30. It also supported the Iraqi representative's proposal that the attention of all the Main Committees of the General Assembly should be drawn to the need for strict compliance with the rules of procedure in regard to resolutions with financial implications.

31. His delegation could not support the item relating to the United Nations Representative on the so-called Question of Hungary and would vote against it should it be put to the vote separately.

32. Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) pointed out that it had been the practice in past years for the Secretary-General to request additional funds in respect of items for which regular budgetary appropriations had already been approved. In 1957 and 1958, the supplementary estimates had amounted to 10 per cent of the total funds approved by the Assembly at its previous session. The supplementary estimates for 1962 were likely to exceed \$3.1 million, a sum representing 4.3 per cent of the 1962 budget and equivalent to the contributions of fifty-seven Member States. Moreover, the limits of the regular budget were being exceeded in budget sections which could not be said to have any connexion with unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Polish delegation understood General Assembly resolution 1735 (XVI) to mean that expenses other than those relating to the maintenance of peace and security, the designation of *ad hoc* judges, the appointment of assessors and the holding of sessions of the International Court of Justice away from The Hague, and expenses relating to the pattern of conferences could not be regarded as unforeseen and extraordinary. Accordingly, it deplored the fact that additional costs of \$729,650 had accrued under section 3—Salaries and wages, and that a further sum was being requested under that section. It would seem to his delegation that when a session of a body was held at Headquarters, it should be possible to service it by transferring staff temporarily from departments or divisions engaged in less urgent work, as recommended on various occasions by the Advisory Committee.

33. The Polish delegation was also deeply concerned at the decisions of various United Nations bodies, involving expenditure over and above the funds appropriated for the current year. The additional expenditure incurred in connexion with the activities of the Committee of Nine on the establishment of an African Development Bank was a case in point. The decision of the Economic and Social Council to set up that Committee should have been deferred until the necessary expenditure had been approved by the Assembly. Indeed, all the decision-making organs of the United Nations should comply strictly with the provisions of financial regulation 13.1 and rule 154 of the Assembly's rules of procedure and guard against incurring expenditure which would have to be met by supplementary estimates during the current financial year.

34. His delegation specifically objected to the additional expenditure incurred under section 18—Special missions—with respect to the so-called United Nations

Representative on the so-called Question of Hungary. The existence of that Representative was inconsistent with the Charter and constituted interference in the domestic affairs of a Member State. His delegation also considered that the United Nations should not pay the costs relating to the indemnification of refugees persecuted under the National Socialist régime by reason of their nationality, for which provision was requested under section 20—Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. All the relevant costs, including administrative expenses, should be borne by the Federal Republic of Germany.

35. For the reasons he had given, his delegation would not support the draft resolution on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1962 (A/5223, annex).

36. Mr. SOW (Mali) pointed out that the Secretary-General could not very well be criticized for requesting additional funds to meet expenditure resulting from decisions by the General Assembly. The Assembly, exercising its powers under the Charter, had decided that the sixteenth session should be resumed and had requested that missions be sent to Ruanda-Urundi, to the Portuguese Territories and to investigate the death of Mr. Hammarskjöld. It was, however, contrary to the Charter principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of States for the United Nations to attempt to send representatives to visit sovereign, independent States against the will of the Governments concerned. There was no justification for an additional appropriation of \$11,000 in respect of the United Nations Representative on the Question of Hungary, and his delegation would request its deletion from the supplementary estimates.

37. Mr. ANDONI (Albania) said that, in his view, the submission of supplementary estimates was an abnormal procedure. The supplementary estimates for 1962 were so large that they presented a serious problem, especially as many nations were already experiencing difficulties in meeting their international financial obligations. The manner in which United Nations finances were administered was basically unsound and defective; financial regulations were being consistently violated with the result that the General Assembly's control over financing was being seriously undermined. As the Advisory Committee had pointed out (A/5239, para. 11), there were many instances in which savings could have been made and it might even have been possible to avoid the submission of supplementary estimates altogether. The Albanian delegation specifically took exception to the inclusion in the estimates of a provision to cover unauthorized activities such as those of the United Nations Representative on the Question of Hungary, and hoped that the Committee would rectify that situation.

38. Mr. QULJANO (Argentina) said that, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out (A/5207, paras. 18 to 20), if the Assembly had exercised more foresight and applied the financial regulations and the rules of procedure more strictly, only a few unforeseen activities would have required additional expenditure. In the opinion of the Argentine delegation, the measures for tightening control over expenditure suggested by the Advisory Committee should yield the desired results. In that connexion, the specific proposal made by the representative of Iraq had great merit. The Fifth Committee should assert more strongly its responsibility for financial control and

work out measures for impressing upon the other Main Committees the need to be alert to the financial implications of the decisions they took at the current session. Those implications should be fully reflected in the 1963 budget estimates.

39. The Argentine delegation approved the supplementary estimates in the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee.

40. Mr. GANEM (France) said that the main responsibility for the increase in United Nations expenditure rested with the regional and functional commissions and with Governments. They were not sufficiently concerned with the financial implications of their decisions or with the limitations established by the financial regulations, the rules of procedure and previous General Assembly resolutions. However, the Secretary-General also bore a share of responsibility for the additional costs to the Organization; while the French delegation agreed with him in deploring the fact that the Assembly had created three overlapping Committees concerned with one colonial Territory, it would have been more gratified if he had warned against duplication of work and unnecessary expenditure at the time of their establishment.

41. The Economic and Social Council was to be criticized not so much for the additional expenditure to which its decisions would give rise in 1962, which was relatively minor, but for its failure to adhere to a system of priorities and to select for immediate implementation only those projects which were of an essential and urgent nature. Priorities were indispensable when the available resources were limited and should be forced upon every United Nations body. Even if the United Nations budget were trebled, it could not provide sufficient funds for the simultaneous implementation of all the activities that were thought desirable.

42. Subject to those considerations, the French delegation approved the Advisory Committee's comments and its recommendations concerning the supplementary estimates.

43. Commenting on the protest made by several delegations concerning the additional funds requested for the United Nations Representative on the Question of Hungary, he pointed out that the Secretary-General was bound by General Assembly resolution 1312 (XIII) appointing Sir Leslie Munro to serve in that capacity. That decision remained valid until it was rescinded. Until it was, funds would inevitably have to be appropriated to cover the costs involved. For its part, the French delegation would support the relevant request for funds. The reports of the United Nations Representative on the Question of Hungary indicated, moreover, that great progress had been made towards a liberalization of the régime, a fact which was to some extent substantiated by the Hungarian Government's recent agreement to authorize some bishops to attend the forthcoming Vatican Council.

44. Mr. ROMANOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that every year the Fifth Committee considered the supplementary estimates and every year approved them without substantial alteration on the ground that there was no point in reviewing expenditure which had already been incurred; as a result, it had become the practice for the Secretary-General's budgetary decisions to receive *ex post facto* approval. There could be no doubt that that practice was under-

mining the financial discipline of the United Nations; individual United Nations bodies were beginning to disregard the financial implications of their decisions and often planned low-priority projects side by side with projects of real importance, requesting supplementary appropriations in respect of both. The Secretariat often complied with their wishes and included their requests in the supplementary estimates in the knowledge that the Fifth Committee would be obliged to approve such expenditure. Some delegations explained that phenomenon as an inevitable result of the Organization's widening field of activity, but that was incorrect. In his country, there were many organizations whose activities were constantly expanding, but that was made possible by a more economic utilization of human and material resources. The same practice should be observed in the United Nations: in its present form, the budget offered the Secretary-General great scope for redistributing expenditure among the various section items, particularly as the 1962 budget total had been higher than ever before. It should also be noted that some Governments, such as those of Italy and Austria, assisted the United Nations in carrying out projects in their countries, thus reducing the size of the supplementary estimates; that example might well be followed by other countries.

45. The supplementary estimates for 1962 amounted to \$2,727,480, or almost four times the figure for 1961. But of that sum, over \$2 million related to so-called unforeseen and extraordinary expenses incurred under General Assembly resolution 1735 (XVI). His delegation agreed with the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee that "the expenses principally involved in such instances are not unforeseen; on the contrary, it is only the detailed character and amount of the expenditure which, under present practices, does not lend itself to precise estimation" (A/5207, para. 18). His delegation believed that all expenses arising out of decisions made in the Main Committees of the General Assembly could be included in the regular budget; all that was necessary was for the Secretary-General to ensure that all decisions with financial implications were submitted for the Fifth Committee's consideration in good time. To make sure that such decisions were compatible with the financial resources of the Organization, it would be desirable to introduce a system under which General Assembly Committees, particularly the First, Second and Third, were required to demonstrate that their resolutions were financially justified. Such a method would help to discipline bodies making decisions with financial implications and to improve the effectiveness of the planning and control of the regular budget.

46. The Fifth Committee would have to consider a number of other requests for supplementary appropriations; for instance, the sum of \$300,000 had been requested for certain meetings and conferences which had been scheduled by the Economic and Social Council for 1963, but whose work had had to begin in 1962. His delegation considered that the inclusion in the 1962 supplementary estimates of expenditure relating to the following year constituted a gross violation of financial discipline and conflicted with the desire expressed by the General Assembly at its sixteenth session that supplementary estimates should be restricted to the most urgent items. The matters to be dealt with at the conferences in question could not possibly be regarded in that light. Meanwhile, there

were a number of important conferences which should in fact have been held in 1962, such as the proposed conference on trade and development.

47. His delegation had serious doubts about the additional amount of \$159,000 which the Secretary-General was requesting under section 3—Salaries and wages. It believed that expenditure could be greatly reduced by making full use of existing personnel; for instance, consideration might be given to the assignment of personnel from the appropriate specialized agencies to conferences of a technical character. There was also room for substantial reduction in the provision for travel of staff in the 1962 supplementary estimates; to that end his delegation proposed that the standards of travel accommodation adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and approved by the Advisory Committee (see A/5207, paras. 54 to 66) should be introduced with effect from 1 November 1962.

48. The Secretariat should concentrate on preventing over-expenditure on items covered by the regular budget, over which it had entire control. The Fifth Committee was, for instance, being asked to approve a supplementary estimate of over \$460,000 for section 10—General expenses, the bulk of which was for communications, public information supplies and services, and office and internal reproduction supplies, items on which the additional expenditure could have been absorbed within the regular budget. Over-expenditure on items of the regular budget which was not offset by savings in other parts of the budget could only be described as a violation of budgetary discipline.

49. However, the major part of the supplementary estimates for 1962 related to United Nations special missions. As his delegation had urged repeatedly, the Security Council should carefully review the special missions from the standpoint of the practical requirements of peace and security; if, like the United Nations missions in India and Pakistan, and in Korea,

or the United Nations Representative on the so-called Question of Hungary, they merely served cold war purposes, they should be abolished. Such missions simply diverted resources from the really important tasks of maintaining peace and security and promoting the development of the less developed countries.

50. The United Nations was in a grave financial position and the Secretariat therefore had an increased responsibility for ensuring the rational organization of its finances. It must find ways to finance supplementary expenditure through internal savings, avoid excessive expenditure on personnel and use the regular budget more flexibly in such a way as to cover not only all planned expenditure but also a substantial proportion of unforeseen and extraordinary requirements.

51. The CHAIRMAN announced the close of the general debate on the supplementary estimates.

52. With regard to the Iraqi proposal that the Fifth Committee should address a letter to the other Main Committees of the Assembly requesting them to comply with rule 154 of the rules of procedure and with the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the establishment of subsidiary organs (A/5207, para. 20), he suggested that a preliminary draft might be prepared with the assistance of the Secretary of the Fifth Committee, the Secretariat and those members of the Committee who had made specific proposals on the question. The preliminary draft would be submitted to all the members of the Committee for consideration and approval. As Chairman, he would then transmit the agreed text to the President of the General Assembly with a request that he should bring it to the attention of the Chairman of the other Main Committees. Discussion of the item on the supplementary estimates would not be closed until the letter had been approved.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.