

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

SIXTEENTH SESSION

Official Records

**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 857th
MEETING**

Wednesday 18 October 1961,
at 10.50 a.m.



NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEM 54

Budget estimates for the financial year 1962 (A/4770, A/4813, A/4814, A/4910, A/4918, A/4919, A/C.5/869, A/C.5/870, A/C.5/874, A/C.5/877, A/C.5/878, A/C.5/881, A/C.5/882, A/C.5/887, A/C.5/L.674) (continued)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. DAHLGAARD (Denmark), referring to the remarks made by the representative of Ceylon at the 856th meeting, emphasized that the criticisms the Danish delegation had expressed at the 852nd meeting of the USSR proposals for the reorganization of the Secretariat had been addressed to those proposals as a whole. In his view, the proposals were exaggerated and would not serve the best interests of the United Nations. Furthermore, they were being made at an inopportune moment. That must not be construed to mean that the Danish delegation wished to deny the existence of valid and legitimate points in the USSR position. Some of that country's views, for instance those relating to the geographical distribution of the staff, certainly deserved sincere and open-minded consideration. The Danish delegation had not commented specifically on the geographical distribution of the staff because it had felt that no one, either in the delegations or the Secretariat, seriously disputed the fact that the socialist countries were under-represented. However, it would be difficult to remedy the present situation immediately without disrupting the work of the Secretariat. The whole problem should be approached in a calm and business-like way; bitter polemics would merely poison the atmosphere and impede progress. It was true, as the USSR representative had pointed out, that the attempts to remedy the present unbalanced situation had not so far met with much success, but a deeper study of the question might show that the socialist countries themselves were at least partly responsible for the failure of those efforts. Nothing was gained by imputing interested motives to the delegations that could not accept the USSR pro-

posals as they stood, and such accusations might merely preclude a constructive and conciliatory approach to the problem. His own delegation had no other wish than to contribute to its solution in every possible way.

2. Mr. ANDONI (Albania) said that, as other delegations had already dealt very fully with the present abnormal organization of the Secretariat and the unjustifiable increase in the expenses of the Organization from year to year, he wished to deal with some other questions of particular importance to his delegation. Albania was seriously concerned at the efforts of some imperialist Powers, notably the United States of America, to transform the United Nations from an instrument of peace into an instrument of their own selfish designs. In order to achieve their ends, they had taken advantage of the present one-sided distribution of the staff and of the fact that the Headquarters of the Organization were in New York. He could not but endorse the views expressed by the USSR representative on those points.

3. The present situation in the Secretariat, where a minority of Member States dominated the Organization through their nationals in important posts, was not only abnormal, but dangerous for the future of the Organization. In violation of the Charter, the Secretariat had usurped and was continuing to exercise functions which were the exclusive prerogative of other organs, particularly the Security Council. The Powers concerned had led the Secretariat to consider itself as a kind of world government, standing above sovereign Member States.

4. The framers of the Charter had striven, through argument and compromise, to establish a real international organization capable of ensuring international peace and security, and they had carefully defined the different organs and their functions, for they had been aware that the Organization could fulfil its lofty tasks only through collective effort. Since the establishment of the United Nations, the USSR and the other socialist countries had made every effort to improve the structure and composition of the Secretariat with a view, not to weakening, but to strengthening the Organization. If those proposals had been acted upon, the Committee would not now be faced with the present serious situation, but they had been systematically ignored. The imperialist Powers had exerted an increasing influence and induced the Secretariat to follow a policy contrary to the Charter in the Congo, in Laos, and elsewhere. In view of the present international situation, it was more than ever necessary to reorganize the Secretariat so that the three main groups of Member States—the socialist countries, the neutral countries and the countries that were the military allies of the United States—should be adequately represented.

5. Several delegations had expressed concern at the Organization's financial position; but the Organization would not be in such a position if its finances had not

been mismanaged. Albania fully supported the proposals put forward by the USSR and Romania regarding the separation of the regular budget of the Organization from the budgets for the maintenance of international peace and security, and for technical and economic assistance. Strict economy must be observed in the administration of the regular budget, which must be stabilized. The Secretariat should not be allowed to incur expenditure on unauthorized activities, such as those of the United Nations Representative on Hungary. In the latter case, the Secretariat had not only violated financial discipline; it had engaged in cold war activities.

6. In conclusion, he wished to stress most strongly that the practice of submitting supplementary estimates for activities which were not really unforeseeable at the time when the regular estimates were being drawn up, was entirely inadmissible and must be discontinued.

7. Mr. EMEME (Nigeria) stressed that the basic aim of the Organization was to achieve international co-operation, a concept in which his country strongly believed. Unfortunately, some Member States were not keeping that objective in mind. The Organization appeared to be divided into three main groups of States — socialist, Western and neutral — with the first two of which a number of other delegations were aligned. Nigeria refused to align itself with any State or group of States, its decisions on policy being dictated by its independent evaluation of what was in its own interest, but it was not neutral, for it was already playing an active part in the efforts to achieve international peace and security and was deeply committed in Africa. He appealed to the "aligned" States to abandon sterile polemics and adopt international co-operation as their goal. The spirit of the Charter must be kept alive if the United Nations was to be an effective instrument for international peace.

8. Turning to administrative questions, he said that his delegation was not in favour of moving the Headquarters away from New York, as proposed by the USSR representative, at least for the time being. There were disadvantages to New York: it was expensive, the racial problem resulted in embarrassment for African delegations, most delegations were exposed to the influence of the United States Government and found it difficult to express themselves freely. However, it should be remembered that the United States had not been afraid to act as host to the United Nations and thus expose itself to the scrutiny of the world community. South Africa would certainly not have done so. Furthermore, as the United States was the largest contributor to the Organization, it was only natural that it should receive some compensation. Lastly, it would not be practical to move the United Nations Headquarters to different trouble spots in order to achieve the settlement of disputes. For all those reasons, the Headquarters should remain in New York, but there was nothing to prevent the Assembly from holding its sessions anywhere in the world, and if it met in rotation at different regional offices, it might assist in reducing international tensions.

9. His delegation had welcomed the agreement on a single successor to the late Secretary-General with deep relief. No one, not even the USSR representative, had genuinely believed that the "troika" system was the best for the executive office of the United Nations. It was obviously impractical and could only cripple the work of the Organization.

10. However, although the "troika" system could be dismissed, the reasons which had led the USSR to

propose it could not. The USSR representative's complaints about inequitable geographical distribution were fully borne out by the report of the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat (A/4776 and Corr.1). The African countries had the same grounds for complaint. Nigeria had only one of its nationals in a policy-making post, and, out of 82 Under-Secretaries and Directors, only 3 were Africans; of the staff members of lower levels, only 86 came from Africa, and one-third of those were from the Republic of South Africa. The latter situation demanded instant review. The top posts in the Secretariat should be redistributed to give the African countries better representation, to the exclusion of South Africa.

11. His delegation was in favour of one Secretary-General with a cabinet of Deputy-Secretaries representing geographical regions, not political ideologies. The Deputy-Secretary for each region would be chosen only with the consent of the countries of that region. Nigeria would be happy to co-operate with other African States in recommending a suitable Deputy-Secretary for Africa.

12. His delegation would submit concrete proposals on the geographical distribution of the staff when that point was under discussion. He was convinced that even those countries which now had a privileged position because of the present imbalance were prepared to agree to a legitimate overhaul of the Secretariat. Delegations that were pressing for changes would be well advised not to worsen the atmosphere by violent accusations.

13. His delegation was opposed to the stabilization of the budget for the simple reason that United Nations commitments could not be stabilized. That was impossible when scores of countries were emerging from colonialism and in need of United Nations assistance. Although it was not proposed to stabilize expenditure for the maintenance of peace and security, stabilization was to apply to expenditure in the social and economic fields. No stabilization in those fields was, however, possible as long as African countries lacked schools, hospitals and money to provide themselves with the bare necessities of life. In Nigeria, the situation was desperate and called for United Nations action. If the USSR could provide doctors for Nigeria through the United Nations, his country would welcome them with open arms. Nigeria also needed help with education. The United Kingdom and the United States were doing their best to give assistance, but much more was needed. The United States was to be congratulated on introducing the Peace Corps to Nigeria, but the management of the Corps was defective and it might defeat its own ends if corrective measures were not taken. In any event, bilateral arrangements of that kind did not provide an adequate answer to the problems of the under-developed countries. What was required was United Nations action; and Nigeria would turn a deaf ear to propaganda regarding the nationality of the experts it should receive. Whether they came from socialist or from capitalist countries, they would be equally welcome, provided that they could help with the country's economic development.

14. Lastly, it was deplorable that Member States should be unable or reluctant to pay their contributions. They must meet their obligations if the Organization was to survive. If some Member States continued not to pay, Nigeria would not hesitate to propose punitive action. However, care should be taken not to give such States any excuse for non-payment

by misapplying the Charter. It was certain that the United Nations would not be insolvent if some Member States would refrain from frustrating the Purposes of the Charter. He appealed to groups with conflicting interests not to hamstring the operations of the Organization for the maintenance of peace and security by overt or hidden opposition.

15. Mr. KOLBASIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the responsibility for the financial crisis facing the United Nations lay with the senior officers of the Secretariat, who had refused to hold expenditure at a reasonable level, thus disregarding the decisions of the General Assembly. The discussion had shown that many Member States were concerned at the continuous growth in the United Nations budget, although it had been hailed by the Danish representative in his statement at the 852nd meeting as an indication of a healthy increase in United Nations activities. There was, however, a sounder criterion for the appraisal of that growth—the degree of progress made towards the solution of such problems as disarmament and colonialism. Vast resources were required to promote the development of the under-developed countries; it was therefore incumbent on the Secretariat not merely to keep within the appropriations voted, but to make savings. At the present time, it was doing neither.

16. The 1962 budget estimates (A/4770) had all the defects of previous estimates and were far too high, partly because they included expenditure for such useless purposes as the maintenance of a United Nations Representative on Hungary. The Committee should ensure that United Nations funds were not used for cold-war purposes. The senior officers of the Secretariat were not taking the necessary steps to eliminate expenditure on missions that had long outlived their usefulness.

17. The Byelorussian delegation considered that the time had come to stabilize expenditure at an acceptable level, thus releasing funds to assist the under-developed countries with their development plans. It was essential to improve the procedure for the preparation of the budget. All non-administrative expenses should be excluded, so that activities such as the operations in the Congo, which were carried on in defiance of the Security Council, could not be financed from the regular budget.

18. The present budget estimates were unsatisfactory because they had been prepared by a Secretariat which was obsolete in structure and did not reflect the present balance of Powers in the world. If progress was to be made, the top levels of the Secretariat must be reorganized. The USSR representative's position regarding the geographical distribution of the staff was understood by at least one newspaper in the United Kingdom, which had urged the Western Powers to show greater flexibility in their attitude to the USSR request; they were not, however, doing so. Content with an arrangement which gave them their own way, they were unwilling even to consider the reasons for the USSR proposals; and yet those reasons were sound. The top levels of the Secretariat could not continue unaltered, in view of the radical changes that had taken place in the world situation since the signing of the Charter. With the present structure of the Secretariat there was no guarantee that United Nations decisions would be carried out in the interest of the majority, as had been demonstrated by the operations in the Congo. The present composition of the Secretariat primarily reflected the interests of the North

Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Powers; 70 per cent of the staff were nationals of the United States and of other Western countries allied with the United States in military blocs. The figures for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs were 90 per cent and 87 per cent respectively. There were some departments in which there were no nationals of the USSR or of any African State. Such a situation was entirely unacceptable and was a serious threat to the existence of the United Nations.

19. The Soviet proposals for the reorganization of the United Nations had been put forward by Mr. Khrushchev, the head of the Soviet Government, in his address to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session^{1/} in which he had rightly said that the United Nations should not be a reflection of NATO, but should be broadly international in character and equally representative of the three main groups of States. Only in that way could the work of the United Nations serve, not the narrow interests of any particular group of Powers, but the general interests of peace and co-operation among peoples. At the present time international problems could be solved only if the sovereign rights of all nations, small or large, were fully respected.

20. Nothing could be further from the truth than to say that the Soviet proposals were intended to paralyse the United Nations; it was surely clear to every one that great changes had taken place in the world which had not yet been reflected in the structure of the United Nations. Since his delegation believed that lasting peace and international security required the reorganization of the United Nations, it supported the Soviet Union proposals on that subject.

21. In recent years the senior officials of the Secretariat had begun to ignore or sabotage the resolutions of the Security Council and to take into their own hands the solution of important political questions, despite the fact that the founders of the Organization had conferred the responsibility for the solution of such questions upon the Council. For example, those officials had conducted a large-scale operation in the Congo by circumventing or distorting the decisions of the Security Council.

22. His delegation strongly disapproved of the text of the introduction to the Secretary-General's annual report on the work of the Organization (A/4800/Add.1), because it contained statements offensive to the large group of States which had raised the question of the reorganization of the Secretariat and also because it disparaged the principle of peaceful coexistence. In that introduction, the Secretariat had dropped its mask of impartiality and clearly took the side of those who opposed peaceful coexistence.

23. The Secretariat was over-staffed; the permanent and locally recruited staff had increased from 4,078 to 5,034 in 1961. The work of the permanent staff often overlapped with that of the temporary staff and of experts and consultants who were largely recruited from the Western countries. At the same time, the regular budget of the Organization now covered not only administrative expenditure but also expenditure on the financing of extra-budgetary programmes in the economic and social fields. In that way, substantial sums had come into the hands of the Secretariat, which

^{1/}Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session (Part I), Plenary Meetings, 869th meeting.

was expending them without supervision and in the interests of the colonialist countries.

24. The one-sided administration of the Secretariat, which was not at present a truly international executive organ, gravely impaired its work and must be remedied without delay. For example, the composition of the Technical Assistance Board so faithfully reflected the interests of the colonial Powers that the contributions of the socialist States to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance were used ineffectively or not at all.

25. In the present international situation, all organs of the United Nations must reach agreed decisions that took the legitimate interests of all groups of States into account. The United Nations could not be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations if one group of Powers continued to dominate all its activities and to use the Secretariat as its instrument; the Secretariat must be directed by individuals reflecting the legitimate interests of all groups of States and must take guidance only from the Security Council. The proposal for a radical revision of the structure of the United Nations and its executive organs with a view to ensuring equal representation for the three groups of States would serve the interests of international co-operation and would strengthen the Organization.

26. His delegation also thought that, in order to create more favourable working conditions for the Secretariat and for all permanent missions to the United Nations, consideration should be given to the question of transferring the Headquarters of the United Nations from New York to a more suitable locality, where the Organization would be free from outside pressure.

27. Mr. KAOURA (Niger) said that it would be of great assistance to the newly independent countries to have a document showing expenditure on such items as printing, telephone calls, translation and interpretation both during a General Assembly session and during a slack period.

28. He urged the Chairman to take special care to ensure that the Committee adhered to its schedule of work in order to avoid the additional expenditure of a prolongation of the sixteenth session.

29. His delegation considered that the Secretariat should be headed by one Secretary-General, although it was immaterial whether he came from the East or from the West.

30. Mr. NOGUEIRA BATISTA (Brazil) said his delegation was disappointed that the objective which the Secretary General had set himself in preparing the budget estimates for 1962, namely, to stabilize the level of expenditures as closely as possible to that of the current year, would not be achieved. The budget estimates provided for an increase of \$2,292,500 in staff costs, which was to be offset by a reduction of \$2 million for technical assistance and \$237,650 for special missions. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$1,130,650, chiefly in staff costs. The Secretary-General had subsequently submitted revised estimates in the amount of \$6,807,050 to meet new expenditure, such as that resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council, and to cover scheduled salary increases for the upper level of the Secretariat staff. His delegation was not only concerned at the constant rise in expenditure, which was a serious matter in view of the current financial difficulties of the United Nations, but it was also interested in the actual preparation of the budget estimates,

as that had a bearing on the growth of the Organization's expenditure.

31. The budget estimates could be pruned, for they contained items which were not specifically estimates of income or expenditure. For example, the proposal to establish additional permanent and temporary posts was not in accordance with the rules of budgetary procedure; the establishment of such posts should be the subject of specific General Assembly resolutions and the budget estimates should reflect only the financial implications of such resolutions.

32. Moreover, there seemed to be no single criterion for the classification of expenditure. For instance, the expenditure under part V—Technical Programmes—was classified according to a functional criterion; under part VII—Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—according to the criterion of administrative units. It would be more logical to apply the criterion of administrative units to the whole budget, giving other criteria a secondary place.

33. Furthermore, the estimates made no distinction between administrative and operational expenditure despite the fact that such a distinction was indispensable for the purpose of determining the method of financing and assessment.

34. His delegation believed that special consideration should be given to the problems he had mentioned in order to bring a greater degree of discipline into the administration of the United Nations and to improve the effectiveness of the office of Secretary-General. While the General Assembly should co-operate to the greatest extent possible with the Secretary-General, it should not delegate to him any of its own authority.

35. His delegation was seriously concerned at the size of the foreseeable cash deficit in the Organization's finances which had resulted from political and legal problems connected with the method of financing peace-keeping operations. That deficit was being provisionally covered by advances from technical assistance funds which, for political reasons of which his delegation approved, had been diverted from their primary purpose. His delegation considered that the military expenses responsible for the deficit were of an extraordinary character and that the obligations of Member States in financing such operations depended upon the nature of the resolutions under which they had been initiated.

36. In conclusion, he felt that the improvement of the Organization's Financial Regulations could do much to solve its financial difficulties. The automatic approval of revised and supplementary estimates, the establishment of new posts in the budget, the unrestricted transfer of credits between budget sections and somewhat liberal provisions governing unforeseen expenses were all factors conducing to undisciplined expenditure which must be avoided if the Organization was to be put on a sound financial basis. It would also be advisable to consider imposing some form of discipline on the handling of the various extra-budgetary funds.

37. Mr. KITTANI (Iran) said that, as he was speaking in the general discussion, he would not at present deal with the question of the office of Secretary-General, for an acrimonious debate could not help to further the delicate consultations which were in progress and might tend merely to make positions more rigid and solutions more remote; nor would he deal with the United Nations operation in the Congo or the Organization's cash position beyond saying that it was a

dangerous over-simplification to reduce the issue to a mere question of non-payment of contributions; it was in fact a reflection of a deeper and more basic political crisis. Similarly, he would not refer to the question of the geographical distribution of the Secretariat because all members realized that the world of 1961 was very different from the world of 1945, that the geographical distribution of the staff, especially at the highest level, was not ideal, that every effort should be made to correct it and that it would be unreasonable to disregard the views of those countries, especially the socialist countries, which were pressing for more balanced representation. He proposed to confine his statement to an outline of his delegation's general views on the budget and administration of the United Nations.

38. With regard to the important question of budgetary stabilization, he felt that the term "stabilization", which had become virtually a slogan, had been employed in many different senses and that it was important that it should be precisely defined in its application to the United Nations. Did it imply the imposition of an arbitrary ceiling, a step which would seriously handicap Member States in implementing further provisions of the Charter? Or did it imply complete or almost complete budgetary stagnation, which his delegation rejected, believing as it did that the United Nations was a young, growing and dynamic Organization whose activities were limited only by the provisions of the Charter and by the extent to which Member States were prepared to translate them into effective collective action? His delegation would in fact welcome a constructive and well-planned growth in the activities of the United Nations although it would not for the present discuss methods and procedures for achieving that goal.

39. Another phrase that had become virtually a slogan in the documents before the Committee was "a maximum of efficiency and economy". In absolute terms, there could be no such thing; it could only be an ideal to strive for. The question was therefore not whether the Secretariat was conducting its operations with a maximum of efficiency and economy, but how close it was coming to that ideal. The efforts of the Secretary-General and of the General Assembly should be judged on that basis. Measures which would assist in narrowing the gap between the ideal and the reality included stricter observance of rules 154 and 155 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and of the corresponding rules of the Economic and Social Council and greater care in the preparation of the initial estimates. Further efforts should be made to arrest the tendency for estimates for meetings to show an increase between the date of the initial proposal and the date of its approval by organs such as the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The problem was complicated by the fact that the preparation of estimates for any given year normally began in the first three months of the preceding year. The practice of scheduling the main session of the Economic and Social Council in July and August meant that that organ had to approve projects involving expenditure, the estimates for which had to be revised later, or which necessitated supplementary estimates. Some thought should be given to the idea of convening the Council in January or February. Any Council decisions involving expenditure could then be referred to the Advisory Committee during the latter's summer session. That would permit circulation of definitive estimates and of the recommendations of the Advisory

Committee well in advance of the opening of the General Assembly.

40. Many representatives had described the Advisory Committee's proposed reductions in the 1962 estimates as modest or small. That was not entirely accurate, as the reductions were in some instances greater than those recommended for 1961. The misconception was perhaps due to the Controller's decision not to contest them.

41. Mr. MORALES (Peru) recalled that several delegations had expressed surprise at the failure of some Governments to meet their financial obligations towards the United Nations. His own delegation wished to emphasize the need to distinguish between countries which, for purely political reasons, did not pay their dues and those which were unable to pay because of financial or budgetary difficulties or internal crises. The solution of some of the financial problems which had arisen might be facilitated if more heed was paid by Members to Articles 49 and 50 of the Charter. In view of the increasing obligations of the Organization, United Nations expenditures could not be expected to remain static.

42. Mr. ZEPOS (Greece) said that the modest nature of the reductions which the Advisory Committee had recommended in the 1962 budget estimates testified to the care with which the estimates had been prepared. His delegation considered the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee to be reasonable and would support them. It was not disturbed by the fact that the proposed 1962 budget was higher than its predecessors. The rise in United Nations expenditure was natural in the case of a new, dynamic and growing Organization and, generally speaking, had not been excessive, particularly having regard to the conditions and circumstances which had had to be faced.

43. His delegation shared the United Kingdom delegation's view that austerity and retrenchment should be adopted as the policy of the Organization wherever that did not endanger the latter's efficiency and that a system of well thought-out priorities should be established and observed. It had taken note of the fact that in order to achieve for 1962 a total estimate close to the appropriation approved for 1961, a \$2 million decrease in the special provision for technical assistance to former Trust Territories and other dependent States had been used to offset a proposed increase in staff costs of approximately the same amount.

44. His delegation was not concerned at the inability of some Members to pay their assessed contributions. A solution to such problems could no doubt be found, provided Members made a serious effort to meet the obligations they had assumed and provided there was a general desire to maintain the Organization in the interest of all its Members.

45. What disturbed his delegation was the theory held by some delegations that Members should finance only those United Nations activities of which they approved and not those of which they disapproved. It was that policy and its implementation which had led to the present critical cash position of the Organization. The USSR delegation and certain others considered that expenses connected with operations for the maintenance of international peace and security did not fall within the scope of Articles 17 and 19 of the Charter, but should be governed by the provisions of Article 43. His Government—and, he believed, the Governments of the majority of Member States—did not share that

view. It was noteworthy that the socialist States had neither complied with the decisions taken by the majority nor deemed it necessary to ask the General Assembly to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the question of whether peace-keeping costs constituted expenses of the Organization within the meaning of Article 17 of the Charter.

46. His delegation was also concerned at the proposals of the socialist States for modification of the structure of the Secretariat. Their arguments concerning geographical distribution appeared to be based less on the Charter than on political aims.

47. Greece, being a small country, was interested in a United Nations which was as effective as possible at the lowest possible cost. It favoured the appointment of one Secretary-General to direct an independent Secretariat and the strict observance of Articles 97 to 101 of the Charter. The Greek delegation would vote in favour of solutions to United Nations problems which were in conformity with the provisions of the Charter.

First reading (continued)*

SECTION 5. TRAVEL OF STAFF (A/4770, A/4814, A/4910, A/C.5./874, A/C.5/L.674)

48. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had recommended (A/4814, para. 185) a reduction of \$126,700 in the Secretary-General's estimate of \$2,160,700 (A/4770). The Secretary-General had submitted a request for an additional appropriation of \$26,000 in respect of requirements resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.5/874) and that request had been approved by the Advisory Committee (A/4910, para. 17). The total appropriation recommended for approval by the Advisory Committee was therefore \$2,060,000.

49. Mr. HODGES (United Kingdom) said that the size of the estimate under section 5 reflected the international character of the Secretariat and the wide distribution of the Organization's regional economic commissions. However, in view of the amount involved, his delegation believed it desirable to impress on organs taking decisions involving expenditure under that section, as well as on the Governments of Member States, to bear in mind the need for restraint and rational planning.

50. His delegation welcomed the new arrangements for air travel entitlements described in paragraph 183 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/4814). It also endorsed the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in the last sentence of paragraph 181.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4814, para. 185 and A/4910, para. 17) for an appropriation of \$2,060,000 under section 5 was approved on first reading by 65 votes to none.

*Resumed from the 855th meeting.

SECTION 6. PAYMENTS UNDER ANNEX I, PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3, OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS; HOSPITALITY (A/4770, A/4814, A/C.5/L.674)

51. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had recommended (A/4814, para. 190) approval of the Secretary-General's estimate in the amount of \$100,000 (A/4770).

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4814, para. 190) for an appropriation of \$100,000 under section 6 was approved on first reading by 66 votes to none.

SECTION 7. BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PREMISES (A/4770, A/4814, A/4918, A/C.5/877, A/C.5/887, A/C.5/L.674)

52. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the fact that the Advisory Committee had recommended (A/4814, para. 198) approval of the Secretary-General's estimate in the amount of \$4,034,500 (A/4770). It had also approved (A/4918, para. 15) his additional estimate in the amount of \$210,000 for the modernization of the Palais des Nations (A/C.5/877). Further, as the Committee had noted when it considered section 2 of the estimates, the Advisory Committee recommended (A/4918, para. 19) that of the total of the estimates for the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Areas, an amount of \$120,000 should be provided for under section 7 rather than section 2. The total appropriation recommended under section 7 was therefore \$4,364,500.

53. Mr. PRICE (Canada), referring to the Secretary-General's report on the construction of the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile (A/C.5/887), expressed his delegation's appreciation of the assistance being given by the Chilean Government to the Economic Commission for Latin America. The facilities being provided at Santiago were particularly valued by his Government in view of the fact that it had decided to participate fully in the work of that Commission.

54. Mr. GREZ (Chile) thanked the Canadian representative for his remarks.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4814, para. 198, A/4918, paras. 15 and 19) for a total appropriation of \$4,364,500 under section 7 was approved on first reading by 68 votes to none.

The Committee took note of the Secretary-General's report on the construction of the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile (A/C.5/887).

SECTION 12. SPECIAL EXPENSES (A/4770, A/4814, A/C.5/L.674)

55. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had recommended (A/4814, para. 230) approval of the Secretary-General's estimate in the amount of \$74,600.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4814, para. 230) for an appropriation of \$74,600 under section 12 was approved on first reading by 58 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.