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Chairman: Mr. Mario MAJOLI (Italy).

AGENDA ITEM 48

- Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors (A/C.5/L.612) (concluded)***
- (a) **United Nations (for the financial year ended 31 December 1959);**
 - (b) **United Nations Children's Fund (for the financial year ended 31 December 1959);**
 - (c) **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (for the financial year ended 31 December 1959);**
 - (d) **Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (for the financial year ended 31 December 1959);**
 - (e) **United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (liquidation and final account)**

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.612)

The draft report of the Fifth Committee was adopted.

* Resumed from the 766th meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 50

Budget estimates for the financial year 1961 (A/4370, A/4408, A/4523, A/C.5/815, A/C.5/819 and Corr.1, A/C.5/828 and Corr.1, A/C.5/829, A/C.5/L.611) (continued)

General discussion (continued)**

1. Mr. SAHNI (India) observed that, notwithstanding the Fifth Committee's repeated recommendations designed to stabilize expenditure and to effect savings, the United Nations budget was growing from year to year; the supplementary estimates, the budget of the United Nations Emergency Force, and the cost of assistance to the Congo had also to be met.

2. It should, however, be recognized that serious efforts had been made to stabilize the budget, to effect savings, to streamline the activities of the Secretariat and to give effect to some of the constructive proposals made in the Fifth Committee. Moreover, the increase in expenditure arose primarily from decisions of the General Assembly or the Security Council and were of an "unforeseen and extraordinary" character. In that connexion the observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 3 of its report (A/4408) deserved consideration.

3. He noted with satisfaction that the Secretariat had endeavoured to improve the presentation of the budget estimates. The Secretary-General's foreword was more detailed; the annexes were more comprehensive and the requests for appropriations were grouped in a more rational manner. However, as the Advisory Committee pointed out in paragraph 19 of its report, the changes that had been introduced rendered comparison with budgets of prior years somewhat difficult. His delegation therefore suggested that the Secretary-General might consider the possibility of presenting a separate five-yearly comparative statement with a breakdown of expenditure for the various sections and for the different United Nations departments and activities.

4. The delegation of India was gratified by the Secretary-General's efforts to use the available staff in a flexible manner. In that connexion it would be useful to have a brief note showing, for a six-month period, the number of staff employed, the number of posts unfilled, and the establishment which would normally have been required if the Secretary-General had been unable to make flexible use of the staff as he could at present.

5. Like several other representatives, he had taken the view that the budgets of all organizations connected with the United Nations should undergo a comprehensive scrutiny by the Advisory Committee.

** Resumed from the 774th meeting.

He was glad to note that that had been done, and that the Advisory Committee had been able to make useful suggestions.

6. At the thirteenth session his delegation had also proposed that the pattern of conferences should be modified and had suggested that some organs which at present held annual sessions should meet only at two-year intervals. It welcomed the progress achieved in that respect, and was glad that the latitude left to the Secretariat with regard to date and place made for a better use of conference facilities and services. Progress had also been made in limiting the volume of documentation, and his delegation had been gratified to hear the Secretary-General's representative give an assurance that the savings made in that direction in no way impaired the quality of the documents, which remained the primary consideration.

7. Activity was being rationalized and resources used in accordance with the principle of priorities, and it should be noted that, as the Advisory Committee pointed out in paragraph 37 of its report, the Secretary-General was assisting subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council in establishing an order of priority.

8. Those were some of the matters in which the Secretary-General and the Controller had taken action in response to the Fifth Committee's suggestions, and they were to be congratulated. His delegation also paid a tribute to the Advisory Committee on its excellent work, which considerably lightened the Fifth Committee's task.

9. With regard to the 1961 budget estimates (A/4370), his delegation shared the concern of many representatives at the great increase in expenditure, the arrears in contributions, and the cash position. It was true that the increase in expenditure was due chiefly to the emergency measures which the United Nations had been obliged to take either in order to maintain peace and security or to render technical and economic assistance to the countries which needed it most—and in that field the United Nations had inescapable obligations. However, the underdeveloped countries had their own problems to solve; and if they had to make further sacrifices in order to meet their international obligations, that might prevent them from fulfilling their domestic obligations. Nevertheless, India had never hesitated to contribute to the work of the United Nations to the fullest extent of its capacity, and had always responded to the calls made on it, whether in Korea, in Indochina, in Western Asia or in the Congo. Moreover, it had just pledged a contribution of \$2.5 million to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund. Thus the underdeveloped countries did not shirk their responsibilities, nor did they ask for technical and economic assistance activities to be curtailed. If agreement had been possible on a programme of progressive or total disarmament, the resultant savings could have been used to raise levels of living in the underdeveloped countries. Under present conditions and in the period of prosperity through which some of the richest countries were passing, it should be possible to increase some voluntary contributions considerably and to assess the burden according to capacity to pay.

10. As to the cash position, it would be noted that contributions totalling \$18.5 million were still owing. India was among the countries in arrears, but if the amounts due to India in respect of UNEF were taken into account it was found to have a large credit balance. Perhaps, as India had suggested at the fourteenth session, Member States which were in a sound economic position might be asked to pay a greater part of their contributions at the beginning of the year. The Austrian suggestion (769th meeting) for a system of monthly instalments was also worthy of consideration.

11. However, as the Advisory Committee pointed out in its report (A/4408, para. 65), the arrears relating to regular budget assessments were not the most serious. It was the amount of arrears in the payment of UNEF assessments which was causing the serious deterioration in the cash position. In paragraph 67 the Advisory Committee stated the various reasons for those arrears, and his delegation too felt that they included points which needed to be further explored.

12. He would take up the question of the geographical distribution of staff when the expert study on the organization of the Secretariat was completed; however, since the number of Member States was increasing and the United Nations was thus becoming more representative in character, it was the Secretary-General's duty to ensure that the Secretariat reflected the composition of the Organization. To that end it would be prudent to retain a certain flexibility in terms of permanent posts, and to endeavour to preclude any future imbalance by foreseeing the effect of promotions and retirements over a number of years. Efforts should be made to improve geographical distribution, but it should not be based on ideological concepts, and geographical distribution should not be interpreted in terms of a proportionate representation of various political groupings at the international level. United Nations Secretariat staff members, while they should be steeped in their national culture, should not reflect the prejudices or political affiliations of their home country.

13. His delegation would refer later to the Office of Public Information, its budget and its activities, but it wished to welcome Mr. Tavares de Sá, the new Under-Secretary, and to express its satisfaction at the serious efforts to implement some of the suggestions made by the Indian delegation, the Committee of experts on United Nations Public Information, and the Fifth Committee.

14. With regard to the appropriations his delegation would, generally speaking, support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which had made a thorough study of the various items of expenditure.

15. In conclusion he congratulated the many United Nations staff members who, at Headquarters and in various parts of the world, were performing with discretion some difficult and delicate tasks.

16. Mr. TISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he had to express his delegation's deep concern at the 1961 budget estimates, which involved much higher expenditure than in 1960. In paragraph 14 of his foreword, the Secretary-General regarded this large increase as "a first modest departure from the policy of stabilization" which he

had apparently applied in earlier years. Actually, it was not in conformity with the facts to speak of stabilization. The Advisory Committee's report indicated that United Nations expenditure had increased each year, rising from \$50.5 million in 1956 to more than \$68 million in 1961. The Secretary-General was only misleading delegations when he spoke of stabilization. The truth was that expenditure had risen steadily and the present estimates were 6 per cent higher than the 1960 budget and 10 per cent above the 1959 expenditure. Furthermore, the Secretary-General intended to submit supplementary estimates and, judging by the lighthearted way in which he disposed of the Organization's resources, there was every reason to believe that the sums requested would be substantial.

17. At the fourteenth session, many representatives had stressed the financial difficulties which their countries might have to face if United Nations costs continued to rise. The Ukrainian delegation had stated in the past that the Secretary-General should take measures to limit expenditure and should determine in what sectors he could effect economies. However, he had ignored those warnings and had continued to submit higher and higher estimates and supplementary estimates.

18. The Secretary-General's partiality, to which Mr. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had referred at the current session of the General Assembly was very evident in matters connected with the administration of the Organization's finances. Some representatives considered that the Fifth Committee was not entitled to discuss the Secretary-General's activities, holding that to be a political question which was outside the Committee's competence. That was wrong, for it was impossible to examine the United Nations budget without referring to the activities of the chief of its Secretariat, to whom Member States entrusted considerable sums. The Committee's function was to examine the budget estimates most carefully and to reject all estimates which did not have as their objective the strengthening of co-operation between countries.

19. A rapid study of the budget estimates revealed that more than 60 per cent of the appropriations requested related to personnel and common staff costs. Expenditure under those two heads had increased by 36 per cent between 1958 and 1961.

20. Mr. Hammarskjöld's arrival in the Secretariat in 1953 had raised hopes among the Member States. At the time, the Secretariat had been far too large and some reorganization was imperative. At the ninth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Hammarskjöld had proposed, as a first step, to eliminate 160 posts and to increase the Headquarters turnover factor from 4 to 6 per cent.^{1/} His reorganization plan was to entail savings of about \$2 million compared with 1954. Unfortunately, that plan had not been followed by positive action and expenditure had increased each year, with the result that the budget had risen from \$48.5 million in 1954 to \$68.1 million in 1961—a rise of approximately 50 per cent. It was impossible to subscribe to such a "policy of stabilization".

21. Not only had Mr. Hammarskjöld not sought to reduce expenditure but, by artificially extending the scope of his office, he had swelled the Secretariat each year. His reorganization plan was therefore only a fiction and had merely consisted in abolishing vacant posts which had never been filled. The Secretariat establishment had actually increased since 1954 by 300 officials. The 8 Assistant Secretaries-General appointed in accordance with the principle of geographical distribution had been replaced by 21 and later 28 Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank, entailing increased expenditure and a decentralization of the administrative and financial management of the Secretariat. The latter had assumed increasingly monstrous proportions, had become a bureaucracy, and had lost its international character. From an organ serving the Member States, it had gradually become an autonomous political organ carrying out the policies of a group of States belonging to a military bloc led by the United States of America.

22. The staff of the Secretariat, particularly at the higher levels, was recruited mainly from countries of the Western bloc. The great majority of the Under-Secretaries and officials of equivalent rank, as well as those at the Director level were nationals of the United States, the United Kingdom or other countries of that bloc. In fact, only two Departments were headed by nationals of States which did not belong to that group. Nor should it be forgotten that before entrusting the functions of Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs to a Soviet citizen, the Secretary-General had deprived that Department of an important part of its functions by placing special political affairs separately under the authority of a national of the United States. Likewise, it was undeniable that the "civil operation" in the Congo was being carried out almost exclusively by nationals of Western bloc Powers.

23. In his recent statement to the Fifth Committee, the Secretary-General had implicitly confirmed that recruitment of staff was carried out in such a manner as to give the Secretariat a definitely pro-Western bias. After referring at length to the standards of efficiency, competence and integrity required of Secretariat officials—and no one denied that Charter requirement—the Secretary-General had stated, in connexion with the need for balanced geographical distribution, that it was easier for him to recruit staff from certain parts of the world than from others. By implying that he could recruit officials with the required integrity and competence from countries of the Western bloc, the Secretary-General had insulted a large number of countries, including the Ukrainian SSR, which in spite of repeated representations to the Secretary-General had only an insignificant number of its nationals in the Secretariat. His delegation protested vigorously against that violation of the fundamental rights of Member States.

24. The Secretary-General devoted practically all his efforts to activities of a political nature, ignoring the fact that under Article 97 of the Charter he was "the chief administrative officer of the Organization" and that, as such, he should perform the functions entrusted to him by the organs of the United Nations. The Secretary-General had failed to heed the comments already made on that score, and he had initiated action, in Laos, and particularly in the Congo,

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 5, foreword, para. 9.

which had had the effect of diverting the Secretariat still further from its original function of serving the organs of the United Nations and making it instead an independent organ acting in the name of the United Nations.

25. The level of the 1961 budget should be reduced substantially by cutting certain types of expenditure, particularly that relating to staff, and by eliminating activities which were unnecessary or could be deferred. If vigorous efforts were made to rationalize the Secretariat's activities and to keep a tight control on expenditure, it would be perfectly possible, as the USSR representative had suggested, to stabilize the budget at the 1959 level of \$50 million. The considerable increase in the budget, as compared with that for 1960, could not be explained by unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, since expenditure of that type had also been incurred in 1960, not by the expansion of United Nations activities, because a slowing down had in fact been noted in certain sectors such as Trusteeship, nor by the increase in the cost of living in the United States, the effects of which should be offset by savings under other sections of the budget. He had sought in vain in the documents submitted to the Committee for some indications of measures taken by the Secretary-General, bearing in mind earlier comments, to reduce the cost of special missions, some of which had been established in violation of the Charter or no longer served any purpose. On the contrary, the 1961 estimates under that heading were appreciably higher than the 1960 appropriations.

26. For all those reasons, his delegation considered that the time had come to carry out a reorganization of the Secretariat in order to ensure adequate representation of the three existing groups of countries: the Socialist countries, the Western countries and the neutral nations.

27. Mr. BAGATSING (Philippines) congratulated the Secretary-General on the improved form of presentation of the budget. He was confident that further improvements would be made which would place even greater emphasis on the programmes of assistance to the under-developed countries. He hoped that if the presentation of supplementary budgets could not be avoided entirely, it would be reduced to the absolute minimum.

28. The constant increases in the budget, which were a source of concern to almost all delegations, were probably due to the expansion of the activities of the Organization and its increased membership. His delegation believed that the budget presented by the Secretary-General and reviewed by the recommendations of the Advisory Committee responded to the needs of the United Nations for 1961. It approved the expansion of activities in the economic and social fields, as well as the role which the United Nations had played in maintaining peace, and it considered that all Member States should support the action thus taken by bearing their share of the cost it entailed.

29. His delegation regretted that it was unable to support the suggestion that the budget should be limited to \$50 million annually. The United Nations was a growing Organization and to limit the budget to less than the 1960 appropriation would hinder its growth and be prejudicial to the small and under-developed countries. He therefore appealed to the

USSR and Czechoslovak representatives not to press that suggestion.

30. His delegation was gravely concerned over the geographical distribution of personnel in the Secretariat. The small States should be equitably represented in important policy-determining positions. As the Secretary-General himself had stated, the United Nations should serve not only large countries, but even more the smaller and weaker ones. For example, it would have been equitable to place a Philippine national in charge of the Manila Information Centre instead of a national of one of the great Powers, although he did not question the latter's competence and integrity. The Philippines was not adequately represented among the higher grades of the staff. The highest post held by one of its nationals was in the P-4 category despite the fact that it could supply many well-qualified people. Again, there was not one Filipino in the mission sent to Laos, although the Philippines was not far from Laos.

31. When the Secretary-General had said that it was easier for him to recruit staff from some parts of the world than from others, he had certainly not intended to slight any Member State. In fact, the Philippine delegation considered that in emergency situations, the Secretary-General should have a free hand in the choice of the staff he felt would form the team most likely to ensure the greatest success for the mission. In normal circumstances, however, the Secretary-General should strictly apply the provisions of the Charter and not disregard the principle of geographical distribution on the pretext that it was easier to recruit from some parts of the world than from others. Moreover, it might be more economical to employ people from countries near the region where a crisis had occurred or the territory in which they would be needed.

32. The Philippine delegation could not support the USSR representative's suggestion for equal representation of three groups of States; the Secretariat should be a permanent and effective organ whose composition could not be modified to reflect changes in the political allegiance of the leaders of the various States.

33. With regard to the missions sent to Guinea and Laos, the Philippine delegation felt that the Secretary-General's actions were perfectly legal. Nevertheless, from a purely budgetary viewpoint, it too would like some clarification concerning the expenses entailed in co-ordinating the technical assistance given to those two countries compared with the actual amount of that assistance. Moreover, if it was true that expensive cars were supplied to the Secretary-General's representatives and consultants, that type of expenditure could be reduced henceforth by using medium-priced cars which could probably be purchased in countries near the territory in which they were to be used.

34. With regard to a possible transfer of United Nations Headquarters, which had been mentioned during the present session, he pointed out that if Headquarters were moved to Baguio, in the Philippines, a budget of \$50 million would probably be adequate.

35. Mr. CHELLI (Tunisia) said that in framing the budget estimates the Secretary-General had paid

particular attention to the necessity for reconciling "the needs of the work with the standards of highest efficiency and as great economy as possible in the circumstances" (A/4370, foreword, para. 1). The Tunisian delegation entirely agreed with that approach and had considered the budget estimates for 1961 from that viewpoint.

36. It would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations which had been made after a scrupulous and close investigation of the budget estimates. Even with the reductions recommended by that Committee, the budget for the coming year reached a figure which, at first sight, might appear too high. That impression, however, did not persist upon closer examination, and in the light of the arguments set forth in paragraph 26 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/4408), Tunisia—though one of the countries for which contributions to the United Nations and to the specialized agencies represented a rather heavy load—did not think that it was possible to reduce the amount requested by the Secretary-General any further. The number of Member States had, after all, increased, and the Organization was playing an increasing role in economic and social matters, which were of great importance for all the smaller countries. The assistance given to under-developed countries through the United Nations was by far the best, and his delegation would approve any increase that might be made in the amount to be provided for technical assistance.

37. That did not mean that the Tunisian delegation was not in favour of strict control of expenditure, and in that connexion it associated itself with the delegations which had asked the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee to increase their efforts to effect the maximum economy. But the budget should not be an end in itself and it should not hamper the work of the Organization in the developing countries. Tunisia was taking its share in the efforts made in that direction by regularly paying all its contributions.

38. The Tunisian delegation approved the new format for the budget. He would return to the points he had just outlined when the vote was taken on the various sections of the budget and would take up again in due course the different questions raised during the discussion, including those concerning the geographical distribution of staff and the operations in the Congo.

39. Mr. DE BARROS (Brazil) said that he shared the concern of other representatives at the rapid increase in the size of the budget. There was no question of disavowing commitments which had been undertaken, but the limit beyond which most Member States would no longer be able to pay their normal contributions was approaching. The expenditure for the maintenance of peace and security was heavy, but the Brazilian delegation had no doubt that it had been made in accordance with General Assembly or Security Council resolutions, and his delegation supported the Secretary-General's action, which was safeguarding the prestige and the very existence of the Organization.

40. The Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee deserved praise, the former for the way in which he had prepared and submitted the budget estimates, the latter for its meticulous analysis of the

budgetary proposals. The Brazilian delegation approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations with the exception of those under section 3—Salaries and wages, and section 17—Narcotic drugs control. The reduction in the number of posts proposed for ECLA would hamper the establishment of the Latin American common market, a project of great importance. He pointed out that in resolution 1430 (XIV) the General Assembly had recommended that ECLA should continue to assign high priority to the work being done in that field. For similar reasons, the Brazilian delegation was in favour of restoring the amounts proposed for the other regional economic commissions. If the Fifth Committee accepted the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 17, one of the seminars planned for 1961 would have to be cancelled, thereby clearly harming the programme for that field of work. Since the sum involved was only \$25,000, the Brazilian delegation would support any proposal to restore the amount requested by the Secretary-General. The Brazilian delegation seldom opposed the Advisory Committee's recommendations. It had done so at the fourteenth session when that Committee had recommended a reduction in the estimate for travel of staff on home leave. The reduction had nevertheless been approved, but recourse had had to be made later to a supplementary appropriation and several members of the Fifth Committee had protested against that procedure.

41. The increase in the level of the budget was an inevitable consequence of the growth of the Organization and the expansion of its activities. Thirty-nine States had been admitted since 1952, entailing a substantial, but normal increase in the anticipated expenditure under various sections of the budget. As for the Organization's activities, they stemmed from decisions of its organs, and it was not for the Committee to dispute those decisions. The Brazilian Government had always done all in its power to support action designed to safeguard the peace. Thus, since 1956 there had been a Brazilian contingent in UNEF, and recently, Brazil had sent a number of Air Force Officers to the Congo.

42. The Organization's cash position which was continually worsening, would be less perturbing if all contributions to UNEF were paid. He agreed with the Australian representative that the very existence of the United Nations was dependent on the punctual payment of contributions.

43. He drew attention to the fact that the estimated income other than that from staff assessment was lower than in 1960. There were reasons for that situation, but it was to be hoped that the Secretariat would make an effort to increase such sources of income.

44. Mr. TURNER (Controller) gave some information concerning the cost of transport for the Special Representative in Guinea. The \$4,000 appropriated for that purpose had not been used. The Representative and his assistants had not travelled about in a Cadillac, as had been said, but in a small but serviceable car placed at their disposal by the Government of Guinea.

First reading (continued)

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (A/4370, A/4408, A/4523, A/C.5/819 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/L.611) (continued)

45. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that a large proportion of members of the Committee apparently supported the Advisory Committee's main thesis that it would be wise to defer any immediate plans for a major strengthening of the establishment until after the completion of the review of the activities and organization of the Secretariat and that meanwhile, for tasks which could not be deferred, temporary staff should be engaged or use should be made of resources freed in certain areas.

46. The Advisory Committee had not recommended that the United Nations should not provide certain services to the Latin American Common Market programme. It had raised a question of policy: namely, to what extent the United Nations Secretariat should provide such services, especially from regular budget funds. A question arose as to why, and to what extent, the cost of such services could not be made from the budget of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. That was a question which the Member States represented on the Fifth Committee must consider and resolve.

47. With reference to the Advisory Committee's recommendations under section 3, it could hardly be held that all the additional needs in the economic and social field were equally urgent, and that none of them could be deferred for a few months. The Advisory Committee had concurred in the creation of twenty-nine new professional posts, and its recommendations would enable temporary provision to be made for a further nine or ten posts.

48. There remained the question of utilizing resources freed by diminishing activity in certain areas, especially that of trusteeship. When the Advisory Committee had reviewed the budget estimates in June, it had understood that a substantial reduction in the Trusteeship appropriations would become possible in the course of 1961. In view of the plebiscites to be held in the Trust Territory of the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration and the Trust Territory of Western Samoa under New Zealand administration, that reduction would probably not take place until the first half year was over. There might be some delay, but that would happen even if new posts were created; for staff could not be recruited overnight.

49. Mr. SAHNI (India) felt that it would be desirable for the Committee to have clearer information on the conditions under which posts would become vacant; a comparative statement of requirements should be drawn up, showing on the one hand the number and nature of the posts required, and, on the other, the number and nature of the posts which would become vacant, and on what dates. He knew that he spoke for other members of the Committee in stressing the importance of the regional economic commissions and of technical posts. The proposal which he had worked out with several of his colleagues did not affect the question of policy to which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had referred, for mem-

bers of the Fifth Committee had no means of deciding how the expenses mentioned in paragraph 122 of the Advisory Committee's report should be divided between the regular budget and technical assistance funds. His proposal was as follows: that the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 3, chapter I be increased by \$150,000 to a total of \$32,705,000, the increase to be spread at the Secretary-General's discretion in order to staff on a temporary basis the regional economic commissions in 1961 at the required level and to provide for priority work in the field of economic development.

50. That proposal, which would provide the Secretary-General with the resources he requested while leaving him the desired freedom of action, should also be acceptable to the Advisory Committee, since it related to temporary posts.

51. Mr. EL HAKIM (United Arab Republic) explained that, in proposing at the 775th meeting an increase of \$270,000 in the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee, he had wished to preclude so far as possible requests for supplementary appropriations. He had, however, become convinced from certain conversations in particular with representatives of the Secretary-General, that an increase of \$150,000 in the recommended appropriation would be sufficient for the purpose of recruiting the staff needed by the regional economic commissions and to fill almost all posts required at Headquarters. He therefore agreed that the figure he had proposed should be reduced to \$150,000, on the understanding that the new posts would be provided on a temporary basis.

52. Mr. AIKEN (United States of America) supported the Indian representative's proposal.

53. Mr. QULJANO (Argentina) noted with satisfaction that the representatives of the United Arab Republic and the United States supported the Indian representative's proposal. He had had grave misgivings about the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee and would support the Indian representative's proposal, which would strengthen the Secretariat in its economic and social activities and solve the staffing problems of the regional economic commissions.

54. Mr. GREZ (Chile) observed that the activity of the United Nations in the economic and social sphere was becoming more important each year, and that the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) in particular had done remarkable work for the development of the Latin American countries; that work was continually growing in scope, and ECLA needed funds. Wishing to provide the Secretary-General with the means to continue that great work, he would support the Indian representative's suggestion.

55. Mr. ARAMBURU (Peru) paid a tribute to the Chairman and members of the Advisory Committee for the excellent work they had done. His delegation had already expressed its concern at the proposed reductions, which had represented a potential obstacle to ECLA's work for the Latin American Common Market. The Indian proposal marked a compromise between the Advisory Committee's view and that of delegations, and he supported it unreservedly.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.