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 MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Mario MAJOLI (Italy).

AGENDA ITEM 50

Budget estimates for the financial year 1961 (A/4370, A/4408, A/4506, A/4523, A/4524, A/C.5/815, A/C.5/819 and Corr.1, A/C.5/822, A/C.5/828 and Corr.1, A/C.5/829, A/C.5/L.611) (continued)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. AIKEN (United States of America) said that, at a time when—as the Secretary-General had put it—the United Nations stood at a turn of the road, its future depended largely on what was decided in the Committee, whose duty it was to act in such a manner that future generations could live in peace and freedom. The new Members expected much of the United Nations, and the welcoming speeches addressed to them must be translated into action. That meant that the Fifth Committee must recognize the need to expand the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields and to ensure that peace was kept wherever it was threatened; it also meant that, for that purpose, the Committee must be ready to approve the unforeseen expenditure which the execution of that great task entailed. The budget was growing because the United Nations itself was developing. That was the price Member States had to pay if the United Nations was to survive and to attain the objectives of the Charter. The work of the United Nations was dynamic and could not be reconciled with negative suggestions or proposals designed to make it ineffective. It was no time for recriminations, propaganda or personal attacks. Those who were on the side of the United Nations must act accordingly. It was regrettable that certain Member States which had considerable resources appeared reluctant to use them in that great and common cause.

2. The United States delegation considered that the Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1961 (A/

4370) and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/4408), which it would support, were fair and objective. It would also support—provided that they were presented in the same spirit—the requests for additional appropriations in respect of unforeseen expenses which would probably be necessitated by existing circumstances.

3. In short, the United States believed in the United Nations; it believed in the Organization's capacity to work for peace and to aid those Member countries which required assistance. The United States and many other Member States did not wish to see the United Nations crippled or destroyed. They would do their utmost to ensure that it had at its disposal the means to fulfil the aspirations of the peoples.

4. Mr. EL HAKIM (United Arab Republic) congratulated the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the noteworthy statements they had made before the Committee at the 767th meeting (A/C.5/828 and Corr.1 and A/C.5/829). The fact that the difference between the Secretary-General's proposals and the Advisory Committee's recommendations was so small (less than 1.4 per cent of the total appropriations requested) showed the accuracy with which the 1961 budget estimates had been prepared. There was nothing unexpected about the increases involved; they were justified, considering that the number of Members and the responsibilities of the United Nations had steadily increased. Member States' resources, however, were limited, and a solution to the budget problem must be found. He wondered whether, since the estimates for 1961 reflected the Organization's real needs, the budget might not be stabilized at that level.

5. It was a source of satisfaction that the United Nations was playing an increasing part in the economic and social fields, and that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee hoped the Economic Commission for Africa would be in a position to discharge all its functions as soon as possible. However, some of the Advisory Committee's recommendations for reductions in the number of posts aroused his delegation's concern. Such reductions must not be allowed to impair the economic and social programmes, which were an urgent necessity for the under-developed countries. Hence, pending the conclusions of the review of the activities and organization of the Secretariat, it was necessary to maintain those activities by approving, as a temporary measure, the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General.

6. The regularity with which the Committee was faced with supplementary estimates was disquieting; he would urge the Secretary-General not to exceed the appropriations approved, and to adhere very closely to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1444 (XIV). Since the exact level of expenditure could not be precisely foreseen, it might perhaps be advisable

to provide a sum of say 1 or 2 per cent of the total budget, which would enable the Secretary-General to compensate for errors of calculation or estimation.

7. As to the form of the budget, the existing presentation appeared to facilitate the study of the budget documents and it would be advisable to avoid further modifications in the interests of comparability between future sets of estimates.

8. He was glad to note that the policy of stabilizing expenditure on public information had not prevented the establishment of three new information centres in 1960, and that three more were to be opened in 1961 without exceeding the approved ceiling on expenditure. That suggested the feasibility of applying the same principle of stabilization at a fixed ceiling to the budget.

9. In conclusion, he wished to inform the Committee of the negotiations that had taken place between the United Nations and his Government regarding the construction at Cairo of a United Nations building to house the offices of the United Nations and of various specialized agencies. The Government of the United Arab Republic had offered a plot of land at a nominal rent and, at the request of the United Nations, had estimated the cost of erecting the building at approximately \$800,000. That project, if approved, would enable the United Nations and the specialized agencies to effect considerable savings on rent, maintenance and staff, and would prove an excellent long-term investment.

10. Mr. GANEM (France) said that, with regard to the geographical distribution of staff, he supported the high-minded interpretation which the Secretary-General had placed on Article 101 of the Charter in his reply to the USSR representative; like the Venezuelan representative, however, he felt that there was no incompatibility between the two requirements of that Article.

11. With regard to the 1961 budget estimates—or, as he would prefer to call them the first part of those estimates—the Secretary-General had indicated that, in addition to the regular budget estimates, there would be another set of estimates, in a very high amount, relating to expenditure incurred in the Congo. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee, for his part, had mentioned the figure of \$40 million, but that figure, it was to be feared, covered only the new supplementary expenditure for 1960. The Committee's task was no longer to decide between the Secretary-General's proposals and the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which in fact were fairly close together, but to consider what the total budgetary burden would be.

12. The Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had said nothing about financing the expenditure in the Congo. He wondered whether that expenditure was to be distributed in accordance with the scale of assessments or whether the system in effect for UNEF since 1960 was to be adopted. That was a question of principle which the Committee had to settle. Moreover the Organization's cash position was a source of justifiable concern. Twice in the past the General Assembly had had to authorize the Secretary-General "to borrow... from... funds... in his custody" (resolutions 1341 (XIII) and 1448 (XIV)). The cash position might appear to be satisfactory since during the current year no funds had been borrowed;

however, he had learnt from the Press—and not from Secretariat representatives—that the Secretary-General had advanced a sum of \$7 million to the Congolese authorities and, more recently, the pay of the Congolese troops. Moreover, the Assembly had approved in principle the establishment of a \$100 million fund, to be financed from voluntary contributions. The United States had paid an advance of \$5 million towards its contribution, and other countries had pledged contributions. He would like to know exactly what amounts had been paid in. The Committee needed exact figures to strengthen its confidence.

13. Turning to a matter with more uncertain financial implications, he conceded that the restrictive interpretation placed by the USSR delegation on Articles 97, 98 and 99 of the Charter, concerning the powers of the Secretary-General, would probably result in some reduction of expenditure; such savings, however, might not receive the approval of all Member States. The Secretary-General and the USSR delegation were not wholly in disagreement on the substance of the problem; both admitted that there was a problem, for the Secretary-General, in the Introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization, referring to the United Nations as an executive organ, recognized that in "this latter respect, the evolution has taken a course somewhat different from the one envisaged in San Francisco" (A/4390/Add.1, Section V).

14. The USSR representative, in the light of his strict interpretation of the Charter, therefore proposed that the budget should be reduced from \$64 million to \$50 million. Members of the Committee should, in any event, exercise the greatest caution in approving estimates of expenditure. That was their duty to their Governments, and also to those less affluent Governments which lacked the means to be represented on all committees. It would be a matter for regret if, in application of Article 19 of the Charter, young Member States were deprived of their right to vote through inability to pay their contributions to the Organization's expenses. To avert such a contingency, the Committee might perhaps be induced on completing the first reading, to refer the budget estimates back to the Advisory Committee and ask it to see where further reductions could be made.

First reading (continued)

SECTION 7. BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PREMISES (A/4370, A/4408, A/C.5/L.611)

15. Sir Robert GRIMSTON (United Kingdom) asked for further particulars of the actual obligations which would be incurred in 1961 for construction of the United Nations building at Santiago, Chile.

16. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Secretariat's present estimate of expenditure in 1960 was approximately \$50,000. As the preparatory work had been somewhat slow, construction costs would not be incurred until towards the beginning of 1961; that was why it was proposed to carry over to 1961 the sums appropriated but not used in 1960.

17. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) stressed the importance of the Headquarters maintenance and capital improvement plan, an importance which had been increased as a result of the admission of new Members. He also pointed out that the appropriations requested under that section of the estimates had been limited to the absolute minimum. He asked the representative of the

Secretariat for information concerning the architectural and engineering survey of the Headquarters building; in particular, he would like to know what stage that survey had reached and when a report on the subject would be submitted.

18. Mr. VAUGHAN (Director of General Services) said that the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee would receive a preliminary report in the near future dealing with conference facility requirements. The report would probably confirm the need to build two new conference rooms and to modify the other conference rooms and the General Assembly hall. That work would certainly involve fairly considerable expenditure.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4408, para. 187) for an appropriation of \$3,749,500 under section 7 was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 8. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT (A/4370, A/4408, A/C.5/L.611)

19. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) asked the representative of the Secretary-General whether the proposals the Secretary-General would submit as a result of the current survey of the building would necessitate a considerably larger appropriation under section 8.

20. Mr. VAUGHAN (Director of General Services) said that any requests for appropriations resulting from the architectural and engineering survey would be submitted as a separate project. The question of the survey involving an increase in the appropriations at present requested under section 8 would therefore be a matter of budget presentation.

21. Mr. TURNER (Controller) recalled that the Secretary-General had emphasized (A/C.5/828, para. 32) that if the Assembly should move in the direction of the staffing proposals he had outlined, it should at the same time provide adequate funds for equipment for the new staff. That consideration apart, the reduction proposed by the Advisory Committee created no insurmountable problems.

22. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4408, para. 192) that the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General should be reduced by \$56,000 was fully justified. He drew attention, in particular, to the excessive increase in expenditure from one year to another. The Secretariat should show a greater desire to achieve economies. Under chapter I—Furniture and fixtures, the Secretary-General requested \$98,750, compared with an appropriation of \$68,500 in 1960. The 1960 expenditure (\$75,000) and the 1961 estimate (\$75,500) under chapter III—Internal reproduction equipment, were far too high. The same applied to the remaining chapters of section 8, particularly to chapter VI—Other equipment.

23. The Secretariat should exercise stricter control over expenditure and look for possible economies. His delegation would vote in favour of the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, on the understanding that it was a minimum reduction. It hoped that the Advisory Committee could recommend, at the sixteenth session, that the appropriation under section 8 should be reduced by an amount double the reduction proposed for 1961.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4408, para. 192) for an appropriation of \$400,000 under section 8 was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 9. MAINTENANCE, OPERATION AND RENTAL OF PREMISES (A/4370, A/4408, A/C.5/L.611)

24. Mr. PARISIS (Belgium) drew attention to paragraph 197 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/4408), in which the latter noted with appreciation that a number of Governments provided rent-free accommodation to certain United Nations offices in their countries. The Committee went on to suggest that the Secretary-General should explore the possibility of similar arrangements in countries which did not at present offer such benefits. He wished to know whether the Secretary-General intended to make such suggestions to those countries.

25. Mr. VAUGHAN (Director of General Services) said that the Secretariat was studying the possibility of rent-free accommodation being provided by several Governments. Efforts were also being made in many countries to house a number of United Nations services in a single building. The representative of the United Arab Republic had been referring to an arrangement of that kind in speaking of a United Nations building at Cairo.

26. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) deplored the fact that the Advisory Committee had proposed no reduction in the Secretary-General's estimate under section 9, which appeared to be excessive. For example, it was unreasonable to spend such large sums on the rental of premises for information centres in cities such as London (\$10,918), Washington (\$6,180) and Tokyo (\$7,203), whereas the corresponding figures for Prague, Rangoon and Bogotá were only \$270, \$500 and \$526, respectively. Though in the case of Tokyo, the expenditure was to some extent justified by the distance between that city and United Nations Headquarters, that was not true of Washington. In the United States, there were a number of sources of information concerning the United Nations in New York itself. The appropriation for the Washington Information Centre was therefore scarcely justified. The Advisory Committee should have tackled that problem more vigorously and his delegation would vote in favour of the Committee's recommendation on first reading with some reluctance, hoping that, at the sixteenth session, the Advisory Committee would be able to propose a reduction of the order of \$200,000 and that its Chairman would be able to bring convincing arguments to bear on the Secretary-General's representatives.

27. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) replying to the USSR representative's remarks, said that the Advisory Committee could make no recommendations regarding the location of information centres. That was a political matter to be decided by the Governments of Member States. In considering rental costs, it was necessary to bear in mind that rent levels were very high in certain cities. However, in London, the Organization had been able to obtain a relatively moderate rent. The Secretariat might nevertheless urge certain Governments to place premises at its disposal free of charge for information centres and other United Nations offices. That was the inten-

tion of the recommendation in paragraph 197 of the Advisory Committee's report.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4408, para. 198) for an appropriation of \$3,244,050 under section 9 was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 10. GENERAL EXPENSES (A/4370, A/4408, A/C.5/L.611)

28. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) inquired why the United Nations had a pouch service. He also did not understand why the number of pouches despatched in 1957, 1958 and 1959 had been shown in the budget estimates (A/4370, part III, section 10, chapter I (ii)), whereas no figure was given for 1960 and no estimate for 1961.

29. Mr. VAUGHAN (Director of General Services) said that the pouches were despatched by ordinary air mail. The United Nations had the same status as Governments, in that respect, but did not use special couriers.

30. Mr. BANNIER (Netherlands) observed that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction in the amount proposed under chapter VI for library books and supplies. The Committee would remember that the Secretary-General, in his statement at the 767th meeting, had referred to the necessity of a progressive strengthening of the library services, both in terms of staff and in the purchase of books and supplies, a necessity which the General Assembly had recognized when it had accepted the Ford Foundation's generous grant. The Secretary-General had said that "the Assembly would clearly not wish to give the impression of any reluctance or delay in giving effect to this undertaking" (A/C.5/828, para. 29). It would be regrettable to slow down the purchase of books during the construction of the new library building.

31. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the amount requested by the Secretary-General under chapter III—Public information supplies and services, was much too high (\$1,142,000). That was an area in which rational savings would be necessary.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/4408, para. 211) for an appropriation of \$3,469,750 under section 10 was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 11. PRINTING (A/4370, A/4408, A/4523, A/C.5/819, A/C.5/L.611)

32. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the Secretary-General's representative for information on the amount of documentation printed in the United States and in other countries. It might perhaps be possible to achieve savings in the cost of printing, transportation, and so forth.

33. Mr. EVANS (Secretariat) explained that the detailed report submitted to the Secretary-General annually by the Publications Board contained an annex showing the total expenditure on printing by geographical regions. In 1959 the cost of the work carried out by United States printers was 39.72 per cent of the total. The Secretariat was endeavouring to keep that percentage as low as possible and had succeeded in progressively reducing it over a period of years.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$1,180,750 under section 11 was unanimously approved on first reading.

CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION (A/4524, A/C.5/822)

34. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that the question of the control and limitation of documentation had already been the subject of many resolutions. It was a question which required constant attention in order to ensure that the number of documents received by delegations was neither too small nor too large. The Australian delegation was very glad to note that real progress had been made in that field and hoped that the Secretariat would continue its efforts so that the volume of documentation could be stabilized at a much lower level than at present. The Committee should not be content with taking note of the reports before it; it should ask the Assembly to endorse the observations in the Advisory Committee's report (A/4524), particularly paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, and to draw the attention of all the organs concerned to those observations. The Assembly should also ask the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the sixteenth session on the progress achieved in the control and limitation of documentation. It was a problem which would never be solved and, as the Advisory Committee pointed out, required continued vigilance. The Committee could either adopt a resolution on the question or indicate its views in its report to the Assembly.

35. Mr. SAHNI (India) congratulated the Secretary-General on the very considerable progress achieved and the Advisory Committee on its very constructive observations, with which the Indian delegation was in general agreement. He was glad to note that economies had been achieved in the documentation produced by the Secretariat and he would like to see efforts continued along those lines. The total volume of documentation was bound to grow as a result of the increase in the number of Member States and the considerable expansion in the activities of the Organization, but he shared the Secretary-General's hope that, with increasing co-operation from offices away from Headquarters, from Governments and their representatives, further economies would become possible.

36. In order to enlist the co-operation of all concerned, he suggested that a document containing the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/822), together with a brief summary of the Advisory Committee's views (A/4524), or a summary of both reports, should be circulated to members of other committees with figures showing, for example, the total cost of reproduction and translation of ten pages of a mimeographed document or the cost per page of a document reproduced by photo-offset. By emphasizing the financial advantages of economy in words, a document of that kind might help to enlist the co-operation of representatives. It would, moreover, enable the various organs to obtain an idea of the expenditure involved before deciding to embark on a fresh project requiring documentation. Lastly, it was necessary that United Nations organs should be informed of the measures taken or contemplated in respect of publications as much as to seek their approval as to gain their co-operation; for that reason, the Indian delegation would not express any opinion regarding the steps affecting publications

or documentation which had been taken in respect of other committees and organs.

37. While giving general approval to the policy of economy in the field of documentation, his delegation wished to point out that the reduction of documentation was, at best, a means of limiting expenditure and not an end in itself. It hoped that the efforts made in that direction would never be used as a pretext for taking action which was not in accordance with the wishes of delegations or for relegating to the background the imperative need for complete, clear and objective documentation. In that connexion, he drew attention to the last three sentences of paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/822). His delegation had no doubt that the "detailed rules on the drafting of different types of report" had been produced by the section concerned after careful consideration, but it feared that too strict an application of such rules might frustrate the purpose of good documentation. It would like to have an assurance that the rules in question were being applied with the required flexibility and were intended as much to improve presentation as to achieve economies.

38. Similarly, he would have thought that the Economic Commission for Africa was one case in which there was a need for a liberal policy in the matter of documentation. That Commission had been recently established and was concerned with the economic conditions in a large under-developed continent on which a vast number of studies and surveys would be needed. Moreover, the co-operation of the Governments concerned, which partially explained the reduction of 25 per cent in the volume of documentation published by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East was a factor which could not be relied upon at the outset in the case of ECA. In the absence of all the relevant data, it was not possible to make any criticism of the "vigorous action" taken by the Executive Secretary of ECA, but it was to be feared that such action might have been premature and ill-timed in view of the magnitude of the problems confronting ECA.

39. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would be particularly liberal in the case of speeches by representatives of countries which had become Members of the United Nations during the last two years. Quite apart from any question of courtesy, it was desirable that the views of those representatives on the many problems which other delegations had had the opportunity to discuss at length in the past should be recorded in some detail in the official documents of the Organization.

40. The Indian delegation shared the Australian delegation's view that the Committee should generally endorse the trend of development reflected in the Secretary-General's report and the Advisory Committee's observations; instead of adopting a resolution, the Committee could ask the Rapporteur to include in his report the observations made during the discussion; those observations would serve as a basis for the new report to be submitted to the Committee at the sixteenth session.

41. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) observed that it was impossible to obtain spectacular results in an area like that under discussion. There was a limit to what could be done in view of the steady growth in United Nations activities and the fact that the various organs had to be provided with the documentation they re-

quested and that the documents had to be published in the different languages. The limitation and control of documentation remained an important objective which, it must be emphasized, laid a responsibility on all United Nations bodies. The recommendations of the Committee on the Control and Limitation of Documentation had been followed, the system of control was working well and, thanks to the co-operation of the various organs and the untiring efforts of Editorial Control, real progress had been made.

42. The Committee might take note of the Secretary-General's report and endorse the observations of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General might be asked to prepare another report on the matter but if the report was to give a proper picture of the situation it would have to cover a period of more than one year, especially as the coming year would be somewhat exceptional. He had intended to propose a three-year period but in view of the Australian and Indian representatives' observations, he would suggest that the report be presented at the seventeenth session.

43. Mr. ARRAIZ (Venezuela) supported the Australian representative's suggestions.

44. In reply to a question from Mr. TISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. EVANS (Secretariat) said that the comprehensive descriptions of national tax systems referred to in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/822) were among the research programmes that had been abandoned by the Secretariat. The Harvard Law School had offered to take over the work begun by the Secretariat and the United Nations had no financial or other responsibility for the studies, which were published by the School in its own name. The Secretariat's decision to abandon the project and to request the Harvard Law School to undertake its execution had been taken in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 378 G (XIII) adopted by the Council in 1951.

45. Mr. TISHCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation had always been in favour of proposals aimed at limiting documentation, provided the proposal took into account the need to improve the quality of documentation and reduce its cost. However, it had never favoured the adoption of a control policy that would impair the quality of documentation and make it more difficult for delegations to study the questions before them.

46. Examination of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee showed that little or nothing had been achieved. In the first place, control of documentation should apply to all United Nations bodies, but the Secretary-General's report was essentially concerned with Economic and Social Council documentation and contained very scanty information concerning other areas. In the second place, it would appear that some of the results obtained were really the outcome of a reduction in the activities of certain bodies, in particular the reduction in the number of meetings of ECAFE and ECE, as was clear from paragraph 12 of the Secretary-General's report. That was not the proper approach, for documentation should be reduced without any adverse effect on the activities of the organs of the United Nations. The document referred to in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report was a striking example of the unfortunate consequences which could result from the absence of effective control in that field.

47. The Secretary-General appeared to consider that the problem of the control and limitation of documentation was essentially a question of the volume and time distribution of publications. The Ukrainian delegation had searched the report in vain for information concerning any savings that might have been made through the control of documentation, since that was in fact the crux of the problem. His delegation fully endorsed the observations of the Advisory Committee (A/4524, para. 5).

48. The development of the activities of the United Nations should not prevent the control of documentation, for the purpose of control was to ensure that documents were concise, without impairing their clarity or intelligibility and with a view essentially to achieving economies.

49. Sir Robert GRIMSTON (United Kingdom) said that the United Nations juridical yearbook, which was the subject of a report (A/4406) before the Sixth Committee, was not of sufficient immediate importance to justify the expenditure which it would involve at a time when attempts were being made to achieve greater economy.

50. He supported the Australian representative's suggestions. He felt that a further report on the question should be presented at the sixteenth session and did not believe that the Committee needed to adopt a draft resolution on the subject.

51. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that he was prepared to support the Argentine representative's proposal that the next report on the question should not be presented until the seventeenth session.

52. Mr. EVANS (Secretariat) observed that there was no real difference of opinion between the Secretariat and the members of the Committee on the way of approaching and resolving the problem of the control of documentation. As the Australian representative had said, the problem was a continuing one. It must be constantly borne in mind by all concerned, for as the Secretary-General had pointed out in the foreword to the 1961 budget estimates (A/4370), the progress indicated by the report was due to the fact that co-operation between the Secretariat and delegations in the matter had been closer than ever before.

53. The Secretariat welcomed the Indian representative's suggestion that more should be done to apprise committee members of the costs of producing documents, and would prepare for their guidance a statement of the kind he had described.

54. The rules referred to in paragraph 11 of the report (A/C.5/822) had been drawn up on the express recommendation of the Committee on the Control and Limitation of Documentation; they did not constitute a body of inflexible regulations and were designed to facilitate the task of those drafting reports rather than to complicate it. The action taken by the Executive Secretary of ECA had been taken on his own initiative and was presumably the result of a desire to husband the resources of the newly formed ECA secretariat.

55. In reply to the observations of the Ukrainian representative, he explained that the control system applied to all United Nations "documents", a term which did not include most of the matter issued by the Office of Public Information. The document referred to in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report was not due to negligence on the part of the Secretariat. When its preparation had been decided, delegations, like the Secretariat, had imagined that the report which was to be produced by the secretariat of a specialized agency and thus outside the United Nations system of documents control, would be quite short. The fact that it had turned out to be so voluminous emphasized the need for special care on the part of bodies calling for documents from sources outside the United Nations Secretariat. The production of figures showing the savings achieved by control of documentation had been considered on a number of occasions but had never been attempted as it had been found to involve an amount of work out of all proportion to the results which could be expected from it.

56. With regard to the United Nations juridical yearbook, any proposal to the Sixth Committee would naturally be accompanied by a statement of financial implications and should a credit be necessary the Fifth Committee would have an opportunity to express its views on the subject in due course.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.