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Chairman: Mr. Jan Paul BANNIER
 (Netherlands).

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Morris (Liberia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 62

Budget estimates for the financial year 1963 (A/5121 and Corr.1, A/5179, A/5205, A/5207, A/5243, A/5263, A/5267, A/5272 and Corr.1, A/C.5/919, A/C.5/925, A/C.5/926, A/C.5/928, A/C.5/930, A/C.5/931 and Corr.1, A/C.5/935, A/C.5/937, A/C.5/L.726, A/C.5/L.730, A/C.5/L.733, A/C.5/L.734, A/C.5/L.735) (continued)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. LIM (Federation of Malaya) said that, while his delegation shared the concern expressed by all previous speakers over the increased budget, it felt that, in fairness to the Secretary-General, the budget should be viewed against the background of the larger membership and the additional activities of the United Nations. As the United Nations was a growing and progressive organization, its budget was bound to increase from year to year. The net increase for 1963 (\$3,743,010) might seem enormous in itself but the actual rate of increase was much the same as in 1962.

2. The sections mainly responsible for the increase in the 1963 estimates were section 3—Salaries and wages and section 4—Common staff costs. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended (A/5207, paras. 165 and 178) a total cut in those sections of \$697,000, a recommendation which the Malayan delegation supported. Although that delegation had every sympathy with the Secretary-General's desire for a strengthening of the Secretariat, it agreed with the Advisory Committee (*ibid.*, paras. 122 and 123) that while certain departments of the Secretariat were under very great

pressure, there was room elsewhere for a redeployment of staff resources.

3. With regard to the financial position of the Organization, total arrears on 30 September 1962 (including those in respect of assessments for UNEF AND ONUC) amounted to \$137,863,704. The Committee must ponder that situation and consider how close the United Nations was to bankruptcy. He appealed to all nations in arrears with their contributions to meet their obligations as soon as possible.

4. Mr. QUAO (Ghana) said that the rising costs of administrative and operational activities over the past five years had placed a heavy burden on all Member States. In spite of the adoption of the somewhat unusual procedure of a bond issue, the financial crisis was far from over, as the Acting Secretary-General had warned the Committee at its 917th meeting (A/C.5/925). The Committee might therefore have expected an austerity budget, based on the policy of stabilization; but the 1963 budget estimates (A/5205) reflected a cautious optimism and a policy which the Secretary-General had described as one of "controlled expansion". Several delegations had criticized such a policy as inopportune and unrealistic.

5. The unexpected acceleration in the process of decolonization had almost doubled the membership of the Organization but unfortunately had not led to any significant increase in its financial resources. The United Nations was therefore facing a dilemma: should it adopt a policy of expansion in the face of mounting unpaid obligations or should it continue its policy of stabilization? His delegation felt that the United Nations could not afford to stand still at the present stage.

6. The Secretary-General had proposed a controlled expansion of staff to meet the increased demands on the Secretariat. There appeared to be general agreement that some staff expansion was necessary, although doubts had been expressed as to whether the existing staff was being fully utilized. The delegation of Ghana believed that additional staff should not be requested until full and flexible use had been made of existing resources. In a rapidly growing organization the possibility of manpower wastage could not be entirely ruled out. His delegation would support any reasonable proposals for a detailed examination of the staff resources of the Secretariat and their utilization. It wondered whether the Administrative Management Service could cope with such a task. Perhaps the Advisory Committee might consider the problem with the Secretariat and draw up some acceptable proposals. His delegation was gratified to note the additional posts allocated for economic and social activities. It also hoped that, with the strengthening of the regional economic commissions, a further move would be made towards decentralization.

7. His delegation was glad to see that the Secretary-General was trying to solve the difficult problem of reconciling the policy of equitable geographical distribution with that of recruiting certain categories of specialized staff in a highly competitive market. That problem could be solved only through the goodwill, statesmanship and co-operation of all concerned.

8. Ghana attached great importance to the technical assistance activities of the United Nations, especially those financed from the regular budget. It would oppose any proposal that the programmes covered by Part V of the budget estimates (Technical programmes) should henceforth be financed on a voluntary basis. Although sympathetic to the Secretary-General's proposal that the appropriation for Part V should remain at the 1962 level of \$6.4 million, it would withhold any comments until that appropriation came up for detailed discussion.

9. It would give careful consideration to any proposal which the Secretary-General might present in consultation with the Advisory Committee for an increase in the size of the Working Capital Fund. There seemed to be a case for such an upward adjustment.

10. The progress of the Organization towards the goal of universality had brought several urgent problems in its wake. The expenses of peace-keeping operations were soaring and there seemed to be no precise and generally acceptable method of meeting them. Furthermore, the Organization was still maintaining certain field services and missions which should be eliminated or reduced in scope; while the Committee could not take any direct action in the matter, it could draw the attention of the appropriate organs to the desirability of a periodical review of such activities. The laudable proposals made by the President of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly (A/5123) should lead to examination of the activities of the Organization from the standpoint of eliminating waste and inefficiency. In the present grave financial situation every effort should be made to husband the Organization's resources and put them to the maximum use.

11. The general debate had revealed a feeling that the admission of new Members had upset the original balance of forces within the Organization and that the new Members, which contributed only a small proportion of the budget, exerted the most pressure for activities involving heavy expenditure. But, according to the Charter, the Organization was based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members. The contributions of the developing countries represented a great sacrifice for their taxpayers. As their standards of living rose, their contributions to the United Nations would increase. The small nations were prominent among the purchasers of United Nations bonds. They had not joined the United Nations only for what they could get out of it but also for what they could contribute to it.

12. The Committee could derive great consolation from the role which the Acting Secretary-General was now playing in resolving the differences between the two nuclear Powers. It was to be hoped that such a demonstration of faith in the United Nations would also result in the relaxation of the financial sanctions now threatening its very survival.

First reading (A/C.5/L.726) (continued)

SECTION 3. SALARIES AND WAGES (A/5121 AND CORR.1, A/5179, A/5205, A/5207, A/5243, A/5272 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/919, A/C.5/931 AND CORR.1, A/C.5/L.730, A/C.5/L.733, A/C.5/L.735) (continued)

13. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft text (A/C.5/L.733) submitted by the United States for inclusion in the Committee's report. It incorporated the amendments proposed by the Indian and Colombian representatives to the text read out by the United States representative at the 933rd meeting.

14. Mr. SOLTYSIAK (Poland) felt that the review of Secretariat activities should go much further than was proposed in the United States text. It should not be confined to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other areas in which staff increases were expected but should embrace the Secretariat as a whole. It should cover such matters as the organization of work, the justification for posts, administration, priorities and the allocation of posts among the various departments. The Advisory Committee had recommended (A/5207, para. 38) that a careful survey of existing resources should be made before any new policy of "controlled expansion" of staff was adopted. The survey should be as thorough and as comprehensive as possible.

15. Mr. HUSAIN (India) said it would be physically impossible to review the resources and workload of the whole Secretariat in the time available. The Advisory Committee's recommendation could best be implemented by starting with the Department of Economic Affairs and other areas in which staff increases were expected. The Administrative Management Service should be able to tackle that task but, if not, additional personnel could be recruited. A review of other departments could be undertaken later but perhaps it would be best leave the arrangements to the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. It seemed excessive to ask the Administrative Management Service to study the question of priorities and the allocation of posts; that was more a task for the General Assembly.

16. Mr. SOKIRKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) introduced a draft text (A/C.5/L.735) which he felt should be included in the report in preference to the text proposed by the United States representative. The United States text recommended a survey of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other areas in which increases were expected. But it was just as important to examine departments where no increases were expected and, hence, where the workload was less. The review should also take into account the question of priorities in the current operations of the Secretariat and seek out weak areas where resources were still being wasted.

17. In reply to a question by Mr. SOW (Mali), Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the United States draft text adequately reflected the preoccupations of the Advisory Committee expressed in paragraphs 38, 41 and 122 of its report (A/5207). He agreed that the Administrative Management Service should not adopt piecemeal approach but should undertake a survey of all the weak points in the Secretariat. The survey on the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should be part and parcel of a general survey and not an isolated operation, uncon-

nected with other areas of the Secretariat. As to the procedure to be adopted, the Administrative Management Service should be given enough time to do a serious job and should submit its findings to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee as its work proceeded.

Mr. Bannier (Netherlands) took the Chair.

18. In reply to a question by Mr. AKE (Ivory Coast), Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the United States text concentrated on the areas in which increases in staff were expected. It was not incumbent upon the Advisory Committee to identify which particular elements in any department of the Secretariat were overworked and which were underworked. That responsibility belonged properly to the Secretary-General, as the chief administrative officer.

19. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that although the staff's capacity to absorb new workloads had certainly not been exhausted, that capacity was much less than it had been a year or two ago, precisely because staff that had become redundant in one department had been assigned to others. For instance, the staff of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, which had totalled 93 in 1959, had been reduced to 72 by 1962 and would be reduced to 57 in 1963. The staff that had become available in that and other departments had been transferred to different activities, such as outer space, or given mission assignments. Although the concern expressed by delegations regarding the use of staff was understandable, he did not think it was entirely founded. The Acting Secretary-General had the matter in mind and would do his best to give effect to the Advisory Committee's very practical suggestions.

20. The survey of staff resources to be carried out by the Administrative Management Service would certainly be helpful, but that Service, which had a very small staff, could not do miracles, even with the help of staff drawn from other sections of the Office of the Controller. Its survey of the Office of Conference Services had been so well done that the Advisory Committee had wished it to make a further survey of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, but that would be a much more difficult task because the workload was not so easy to measure and some expert help would be needed. For that reason, an appropriation of \$20,000 had been requested under chapter III—Other temporary Assistance—of section 3. However, the Administrative Management Service would not be able to devote all its time to that survey, for it had other urgent tasks, such as a study of the utilization of space in the Headquarters building.

21. He agreed with the USSR representative that it was necessary to study areas where no expansion of staff was expected as well as those where it was. Unfortunately, the Administrative Management Service would be pressed for time if its report was to be ready, even in provisional form, for the May session of the Advisory Committee.

22. The Secretariat had no reservations with regard to the draft text proposed by the United States for inclusion in the Committee's report.

AGENDA ITEM 61

Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1962 (A/5223, A/5239, A/5272 and Corr.1, A/C.5/927, A/C.5/929 and Corr.1, A/C.5/931 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.728) (continued)*

Additional financial commitments for emergency measures for the maintenance of essential services in Rwanda and Burundi in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1746 (XVI) (A/C.5/929 and Corr.1).

23. Mr. SANU (Nigeria) expressed disappointment that the allocation requested for the projects described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of document A/C.5/929 and Corr.1 had been reduced from \$800,000 to \$250,000. He would like the Under-Secretary in charge of Congo Civilian Affairs to inform the Committee how that reduction would affect the implementation of the projects. The special situation of Rwanda and Burundi surely called for a more liberal interpretation of General Assembly resolution 1746 (XVI) and more sympathetic consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Furthermore, because of the imminence of the rainy season, the work of repairing the road in question was extremely urgent. It was therefore disquieting that the report called for under operative paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 1746 (XVI) had been delayed.

24. Mr. AMACHREE (Under-Secretary in charge of Congo Civilian Operations) pointed out that the decision of the Advisory Committee to approve the commitment of only part of the funds requested by the Secretary-General for emergency aid had raised problems of implementation. After a preliminary on-the-spot survey by the United Nations experts and further technical studies at Headquarters, it had been decided to send two experts financed from technical assistance funds to Burundi to assist in the planning and execution of the project for the repair of the Usumbura-Kigali road. The Assistant Director of the Housing, Building and Planning Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had recently surveyed on the spot the public housing project for Rwanda and had negotiated a plan with the Government, the first phase of which provided for the construction of twenty houses. Steps were being taken to recruit a town planning expert and a works supervisor, both under the technical assistance programme, to draw up a plan and proceed with the actual construction of the houses. Such projects would be described in detail in the report on the technical and economic needs of Burundi and Rwanda shortly to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General.

25. The Secretary-General had informed the Governments of Burundi and Rwanda respectively that \$125,000 would be contributed for the repair of the Usumbura-Kigali road and \$125,000 for the construction of public housing in Kigali.

26. Replying to the Nigerian representative's questions, he said that the amount of \$250,000 would obviously not be enough to complete the two projects mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/929 and Corr.1), but it would make it possible to start work on them. A survey had been made of the Usumbura-Kigali road, but it would not be possible to start major construction work until the end of the rainy season. The emer-

*Resumed from the 921st meeting.

gency aid was intended to keep the road in a usable state until the major repairs could be started. The second project, for the construction of the nucleus of an administrative centre at Kigali, was urgent. The initial project covered the building of about twenty houses and offices. The \$250,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee would be welcome, but a great deal more would be needed.

27. Mr. TURINE (Belgium) said that there was no doubt that the two projects for which an appropriation had been requested were urgently necessary and were covered by General Assembly resolution 1746 (XVI). The Committee was not being asked to approve a new appropriation, as the Secretary-General had already been authorized by that resolution to enter into commitments not exceeding \$2 million. Although he understood the Advisory Committee's reasons for reducing the initial request to \$250,000, he feared that the reduction might make the assistance provided by the United Nations less effective than it should have been. The imperative necessity of meeting immediate needs should be the guiding principle for United Nations emergency assistance projects, as it was for the technical assistance that Belgium was extending to the new States. He expressed the hope that the Committee would see its way to increase the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee.

28. Mr. HODGES (United Kingdom) said that although there was no doubt about the urgency of the projects to be undertaken, the Advisory Committee had evidently found itself in a very difficult position. The question was not whether the projects were urgent and necessary, but whether expenditure on that kind of project should be financed from the regular budget under paragraph 5 of the General Assembly resolution 1746 (XVI). It was clear that the Advisory Committee had had doubts on two points which his delegation shared: first, whether the two projects could be considered as emergency measures covered by operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1746 (XVI) and, secondly, whether commitments for such "capital assistance expenditures" should be included in the regular budget. In addition, it had not felt that sufficient information had been provided for one of the two projects.

29. The Under-Secretary had indicated that the sum of \$250,000 would be divided equally between the two projects; the United Kingdom delegation wondered whether the Governments concerned had been consulted on that point. It would have seemed more reasonable to allocate more to the road construction project, which would benefit both countries. It was obvious that if the projects were to be completed, considerably more than \$250,000 would be required but the way in which the balance was to be financed raised a question of principle; the Advisory Committee had concurred in commitments up to \$250,000 to enable the work to go forward pending a decision on that principle. The United Kingdom could support the Secretary-General's request for that amount.

30. The Committee was still awaiting the report on technical and economic assistance under operative paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 1746 (XVI); he would like to know how soon it would be now available. The Advisory Committee had assumed that the Secretary-General would wish to submit that report as a matter of urgency, but not even an interim report had been forthcoming so far. In addition, it seemed that the Second Committee, which would have the responsi-

bility of considering the proposals in detail, would not be taking up the item for some time. He would like to know why the matter was not being given higher priority.

31. Mr. KITTANI (Iraq) associated himself with the comments made by the previous speaker. It was true that the United Nations had a special responsibility for Rwanda and Burundi, and General Assembly resolution 1746 (XVI) was intended to enable the Organization to meet that responsibility. The Committee was concerned with operative paragraphs 4 (c) and 5 of that resolution, which covered respectively technical and economic assistance, and emergency measures for the continuation of essential services. It was somewhat surprising that although the resolution had been adopted on 27 June 1962, no proposal for emergency measures had been forthcoming before 13 September. He would like to know why the concurrence of the Advisory Committee had not been sought until shortly before the opening of the seventeenth session and why, if the projects were emergency measures, action on them had been delayed so long.

32. He himself was convinced that both projects were in fact emergency measures and he did not see why the Advisory Committee had found difficulty in reconciling the requests with operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1746 (XVI). Furthermore, he did not share the Advisory Committee's apprehensions (see A/C.5/929 and Corr.1, para. 6). It had approved an appropriation of \$250,000 pending the establishment of more appropriate arrangements for the financing of the balance of the costs of those projects outside the regular budget, and its reference in sub-paragraph (b) of its comments to the Secretary-General's report on technical and economic assistance gave the impression that it was awaiting that report before taking further action on the emergency projects. That was entirely wrong, for the emergency measures referred to in operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1746 (XVI) were distinct from the technical and economic assistance to be provided under operative paragraph 4 (c) of that resolution. There was obviously an urgent need for both types of project and it was therefore disappointing that the report on technical and economic assistance had not yet been circulated. In any event, the Fifth Committee would not be in a position to consider the Advisory Committee's views on the financing of the emergency projects outside the regular budget, which presumably meant under operative paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 1746 (XVI), until that report was available. If the report was to appear shortly, the Under-Secretary must presumably have seen it in draft form; the Iraqi delegation would like to know whether it did in fact provide for the financing of the balance of the emergency projects. As the sum of \$250,000 had been approved only for immediate preliminary steps, he would like to know whether there was any assurance that the projects would be completed.

33. Mr. MALHOTRA (Nepal) recalled that at the General Assembly's sixteenth session, during the debates in the Fourth Committee shortly before Rwanda and Burundi had acceded to independence, many delegations had expressed concern at the grave practical difficulties with which the two new States would immediately be confronted; that was why it had been decided to authorize the Secretary-General, in operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1746 (XVI), "to enter into commitments not exceeding \$2 million

... to ensure the continuation of essential services in the two countries", quite apart from making provision for technical assistance on a longer-term basis. At the same time, the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs had assured the Fourth Committee (1273rd meeting) that Belgium would continue to provide substantial aid to Rwanda and Burundi after their accession to independence. Since the Fifth Committee had no information on the nature or scope of such assistance and since the Advisory Committee had raised doubts as to the propriety of financing the projects in question from the regular budget of the Organization, his delegation would like to know why the Belgian Government did not find it possible to provide for the projects under its own technical assistance programme.

34. In view of the fact that the two projects now under consideration involved "capital assistance expenditures", which, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out, were not usually included in the regular budget, his delegation would also like to know from what sources it was proposed to finance the balance of the expenditure.

35. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) could not understand why the Advisory Committee had concurred in commitments of no more than \$250,000. The Secretary-General was clearly authorized by General Assembly resolution 1746 (XVI) to enter into commitments not exceeding \$2 million. If he had requested more than the \$2 million specified in operative paragraph 5 of that resolution, or if the Advisory Committee had shown that the projects in question were not emergency measures within the meaning of that paragraph, the latter's caution would have been understandable; in fact the Secretary-General had asked for no more than \$800,000. The Advisory Committee had repeatedly stated that it was not competent to revise decisions taken by other United Nations bodies; if it now wished to change that policy, as appeared to be the case, it was neither the time nor the place to embark upon a discussion of so serious a matter. However, nobody had suggested that the two projects in Rwanda and Burundi were anything but vitally necessary to ensure the continuation of essential services; his delegation therefore proposed that the sum of \$250,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee should be increased to \$750,000, to be divided equally between the two projects.

36. Mr. ALLENDE (Chile) agreed with the observations of the Iraqi and Israel representatives.

37. Mr. HODGES (United Kingdom) pointed out that the Secretary-General had in fact accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation and was himself requesting no more than \$250,000; the Israel representative had therefore made a new proposal.

38. Mr. AKE (Ivory Coast) said that the Advisory Committee had failed to take account of the concern expressed in the Fourth Committee over the immediate future of Rwanda and Burundi, and of the urgent needs of the two Governments as reflected in their requests to the Secretary-General for help in restoring essential services. His own country was only too aware of the difficulties involved in centralizing administrative services, as his delegation had had occasion to remark in connexion with the establishment of a United Nations information centre in the Ivory Coast, and no one could doubt the urgent need for the money requested by the Secretary-General.

He therefore supported the Israel representative's proposal that the sum should be raised to a figure closer to that initially requested by the Secretary-General.

39. Mr. SOKIRKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the Advisory Committee had stressed the urgent need to take immediate preliminary steps on the road repair project in Burundi before the rainy season set in; he understood that the rainy season had already begun and would like to know whether any such steps had in fact been taken. He would also like to know how it was that the road had collapsed only a year after being built with help from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and whether the contractor concerned did not bear some responsibility in the matter.

40. In the second place, it must not be forgotten that until recently Rwanda and Burundi had been colonies of Belgium, which had exploited the two territories for its own profit. It was therefore only just that Belgium should share with the United Nations the responsibility of supplying the new States with the technical assistance they so badly needed. He would accordingly like to know what contribution Belgium was making.

41. Lastly, reference was made in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report to the aid which the two countries might expect as a result of bilateral and multilateral agreements that were under negotiation. He would like to know how such negotiations were progressing and whether the agreements in question would constitute the "more appropriate arrangements" mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of the Advisory Committee's comments (see A/C.5/929 and Corr.1, para. 6).

42. Mr. LIU (China) also felt that the two countries were in need of urgent assistance and should be accorded particularly generous treatment as former United Nations Trust Territories. The Committee had only one document on which to base its conclusions (A/C.5/929 and Corr.1), and it appeared from that document that the two projects in question were vitally necessary to ensure the continuation of essential services. His delegation could not therefore understand why the Advisory Committee had felt unable to concur in the appropriation of \$800,000 initially requested by the Secretary-General and would like more information about the basis for its recommendation.

43. Mr. QUIJANO (Argentina) said that he supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$250,000 for several reasons. First, that appropriation would enable the Secretary-General to comply with operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1746 (XVI). Secondly, the fact that the Secretary-General had accepted the reduction of his original estimate showed that he was acting with due regard for the precarious financial situation of the Organization. Thirdly, the estimate had been kept as low as possible and it applied only to emergency measures. Fourthly, as the road project was a new type of activity for the United Nations, it was wise to appropriate only enough for preliminary surveys and plans pending consideration of the whole question of whether the United Nations should undertake public works in a Member State.

44. He could not support the Israel proposal to increase the appropriation to \$750,000 in the absence of

any detailed justification of the expenditure. At the present time, the figure of \$400,000 for each of the two projects was only an estimate. The \$250,000 would therefore be used for detailed planning and careful costing of the work. In addition, the Israel proposal was out of line with the thinking of nearly all delegations, which had stressed the need to stabilize the budget, establish priorities and strengthen budgetary controls and discipline.

45. The Committee now had an opportunity to exercise budgetary discipline by approving the Advisory Committee's recommendation. That would not pre-empt its future action on the technical and economic assistance projects for the two States, for which further financing would have to be considered. The decision on that point would be taken when the Secretary-General's report was taken up by the Committee. In the meantime, the emergency projects must go forward; for that purpose the recommended appropriation of \$250,000 must be approved.

46. Mr. AMACHREE (Under-Secretary in charge of Congo Civilian Operations), replying to the United Kingdom representative's inquiry regarding the decision to divide the sum of \$250,000 equally between the two projects, said that the Advisory Committee had concurred in commitments up to a total amount of \$250,000 without specifying how the money was to be divided and the Secretary-General had therefore simply exercised his discretionary power in the matter.

47. Several delegations had commented on the delay in the submission of the report called for under operative paragraph 4 (c) of resolution 1746 (XVI). The delay was due to the fact that the Secretariat wished to include as much information as possible in the report concerning the various sources from which such assistance might be financed; it was therefore awaiting the conclusion of protracted negotiations between the Belgian Government and the Governments of Rwanda and Burundi. It hoped to publish the report in the first week of November.

48. The Iraqi representative had asked why the Secretary-General had waited until 13 September before seeking the Advisory Committee's concurrence. The reason was that he himself had been sent by the Secretary-General to Rwanda and Burundi to carry out an on-the-spot survey, and had not returned to Headquarters until late in August. The Iraqi representative had also asked exactly what arrangements were envisaged for financing the balance of the costs outside the regular budget; that was one of the questions to be dealt with in the report on the assistance needs of the two countries, which would of course come before the Second Committee in due course.

49. Some delegations had expressed concern that the sum of \$250,000 might not be sufficient to carry the two projects to a successful conclusion. He again drew the Committee's attention to the Advisory Committee's observations in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/929 and Corr.1, where it was clearly stated that the sum in question was intended to meet only the costs of "advance planning and other essential preliminary steps ... pending the establishment of

more appropriate arrangements for the financing of the balance of the costs".

50. In reply to the Nepalese representative's inquiry about Belgian assistance to Rwanda and Burundi, he said that a considerable sum had been set aside by the Belgian Government for technical assistance to the two countries and that there were Belgian experts there; however, so far as he knew, no assistance was being given towards projects involving capital investment, such as those now under discussion.

51. Replying to the questions of the USSR representative about the road repair project, he said that it had only been possible to do enough preliminary work to keep the road open until the end of the rainy season. It was true that the road was only about a year old, but rainfall during the past year had been unusually heavy and it was not unusual for roads to deteriorate very rapidly in such difficult, mountainous terrain.

52. A number of delegations, including that of Argentina, had asked for more information on how the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee had arrived at their estimates of the costs of the two projects. Fuller information would be contained in the forthcoming report on the need for technical and economic assistance. Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee could perhaps explain why that Committee had felt unable to endorse the Secretary-General's initial request for \$800,000.

53. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that a number of delegations had criticized the Advisory Committee for what they evidently regarded as a display of misplaced parsimony. However, the Advisory Committee's recommendations must be judged in the light of that body's quite considerable responsibility under General Assembly resolution 1735 (XVI) on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses and in the context of the circumstances prevailing at the time when the matter had been referred to it. As members of the Fifth Committee were aware, the Advisory Committee's principal function under the aforesaid resolution was to keep watch over the Organization's finances when the Assembly was not in session; but the Committee had been asked to take up the question of the two projects in Rwanda and Burundi on the very eve of the seventeenth session and it had done so with considerable misgivings on the part of several members, including himself.

54. As to the sum of \$250,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, it could not be too strongly emphasized that it represented an initial step only, pending the establishment of more appropriate arrangements for the financing of the balance of the costs. While \$250,000 might seem a paltry amount now that the Kigali-Usumbura road had collapsed, the Advisory Committee could not be blamed for basing its recommendations on the circumstances prevailing at the time. In any case, the Advisory Committee's recommendation had an advisory character, and the Fifth Committee was free, if it so desired, to adopt a different solution.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.