

UNITED NATIONS  
**General Assembly**

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

*Official Records*

FIFTH COMMITTEE  
52nd meeting  
held on  
Monday, 4 December 1989  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and  
Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 159: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER GROUP IN CENTRAL AMERICA  
(continued)

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/44/SR.52  
6 December 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

89-57546 2229S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 159: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER GROUP IN CENTRAL AMERICA  
(continued) (A/44/246/Add.1 and Add.2; A/C.5/44/L.9)

1. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) paid tribute to the commitment of the five Central American Presidents to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the establishment of democracy in the region and assured them that their peaceful efforts would enjoy his delegation's full support. He also expressed deep appreciation of the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to establish relevant verification machinery and noted that the full support and co-operation of the international community was required in order to ensure that such efforts were successful. In a statement to the current session of the General Assembly, his country's Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed willingness to extend co-operation for the purpose of settling regional conflicts in all parts of the world. His Government had made a voluntary cash contribution to the Trust Fund in support of United Nations Peace-making and Peace-keeping Activities and was pleased to note that the Secretary-General intended to advance resources from that Fund to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in order to meet essential start-up costs, pending receipt of assessed contributions from Member States and a formal decision by the General Assembly.
2. The views and recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning the cost estimates submitted by the Secretary-General were sound and realistic. While the usefulness of the 24 overload posts in New York would have to be examined at a later stage in the light of experience, they would for the time being alleviate strains on units dealing with peace-keeping activities. Cost estimates would inevitably be affected by the possible provision of voluntary contributions, prospective agreements with host Governments concerning premises/accommodation and better management of services and equipment provided by Member States on a reimbursable basis. His delegation supported the recommended appropriation of \$40.8 million (gross) for the initial six months of the ONUCA operation, as well as the establishment of a monthly ceiling for expenditure for the period beyond 6 May 1990 in the event that the Security Council decided to renew the mandate of ONUCA. It also expected the Secretary-General to maximize savings wherever possible through the efficient rational use of resources and clearly to identify such savings in the detailed performance report on the initial six months operation of ONUCA.
3. Mr. PASTOR (Honduras) expressed the hope that the Fifth Committee would, in considering the cost of ONUCA, bear in mind the number of lives it would help to save. His Government, which sought a political solution to the problems of Central America, hoped that a decision on the financing of ONUCA would be taken at the earliest opportunity. Caught as it was between conflicts in two neighbouring States, it welcomed every effort to strengthen the regional peace process.
4. Mr. RAMOS (Spain), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/44/L.9 on behalf of its sponsors, said that the preambular paragraphs recalled principles which had been

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(Mr. Ramos, Spain)

previously endorsed by the General Assembly in connection with other peace-keeping operations. The only difference was the need to bear in mind the forthcoming decision of the Assembly at its current session on agenda item 137. In particular, the tenth preambular paragraph referred to the views expressed in the Fifth Committee on the requests of some Member States to change their placement in the existing groups for the apportionment of the costs of peace-keeping operations financed through assessed contributions. In its endorsement of the observations, recommendations and conclusions of the Advisory Committee, as contained in document A/44/246/Add.2, the draft resolution was specifically designed to allow the Assembly to decide on those requests as it saw fit and to reflect that decision in the apportionment of costs relating to ONUCA. Any such decision should be without prejudice to any future decision on other peace-keeping operations. The text of paragraph 6 was also designed to ensure that voluntary contributions were administered in accordance with the decisions that would be adopted by the General Assembly at the current session, under agenda item 137.

5. Recalling that the representatives of Costa Rica and Nicaragua had emphasized the urgent need for a decision on the subject under consideration, his delegation hoped that the clear and simple resolution now before the Committee would receive its unanimous approval.

6. He announced that Japan had decided to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation, while recognizing the urgency of the issue and fully supporting the operation of ONUCA, felt that there was no reason not to respect rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, whereby delegations should be allowed one day to examine the text of a draft resolution. Among the technical problems immediately evident in document A/C.5/44/L.9 were the question of how to handle appropriations pending a decision by the General Assembly on the apportionment of costs and the nature of the appropriation authority envisaged by the sponsors for mandate periods subsequent to the initial six months.

8. Mr. RAMOS (Spain) said that the draft resolution should be revised to include the following additional paragraph:

"5 (bis). Authorizes the Secretary-General to incur expenditure amounting to \$4,524,100 (gross), or \$4,389,500 (net), per month for the period beyond 6 May 1990, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;"

9. Mr. NASSER (Egypt) proposed that the words "in accordance with the provisions of the Charter" should be inserted in the ninth preambular paragraph after the words "Security Council".

10. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that the revision introduced by the representative of Spain had answered one of his concerns. His delegation was,

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(Mr. Kinchen, United Kingdom)

nevertheless, reluctant to negotiate a draft resolution at a formal meeting of the Fifth Committee. It wished to have time to consider whatever revisions and amendments were proposed and requested that the subject be discussed in informal consultations.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to postpone a decision on draft resolution A/C.5/44/L.9, as orally revised by the delegation of Spain, and on the amendment proposed by the delegation of Egypt until the following day.

12. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.