

SIMULTANECUS INTERPRETATION

REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. G. BAGGE (Sweden)

1. In accordance with the instructions given by the General Assembly at its ninety-first plenary meeting held on 23 September 1947, the Fifth Committee, at its eighty-first meeting held on 30 October, considered the question of simultaneous interpretation. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (document A/383/Rev.1), submitted in accordance with resolution 75 (I) adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 1946.
2. There was some discussion of the comparative merits and demerits of the simultaneous and consecutive systems of interpretation. There was general agreement, however, that the advantages of the simultaneous system in saving time and in enabling representatives who spoke only one of the official languages to follow the debates more closely outweighed the alleged disadvantages.
3. The necessity for consecutive interpretation in certain types of work was recognized, and the importance of merging the interpreters of both systems and of training personnel to perform both types of interpretation was stressed.
4. The resolution proposed in the report of the Secretary-General was adopted unanimously.
5. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

SIMULTANECUS INTERPRETATION

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the experience gained with the system of simultaneous interpretation since its regular session of 1946 as a result of the authorization granted to the Secretary-General by resolution 75 (I) of 7 December 1946;

HAVING CONSIDERED the report of the Secretary-General on this matter:

1. DECIDES that simultaneous interpretation be adopted as a permanent service to be used alternatively or in conjunction with consecutive /interpretation

interpretation as the nature of debates may require;

2. AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to provide personnel for four complete teams of interpreters with the necessary technical staff as set forth in the budget estimates for 1948 and the equipment and maintenance for which provision is made in the supplementary estimates for 1948;

3. AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to include in the equipment mentioned in paragraph 2 above, wireless equipment for use in the General Assembly Hall and in the two Council chambers, and to service conferences away from headquarters.
