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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
27th meeting  
held on  
3 November 1983  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUYAMA (Japan)

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

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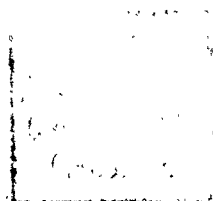
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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 109 AND 110: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/38/3 (Part II) and Corr.1, A/38/6, A/38/7 and A/38/38)

First reading (continued)

Section 17. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (continued)

1. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said his delegation understood that the deletion of programme elements 4.4, 4.10 and 4.13 of the policy co-ordination programme and the merging of the consultations comprising elements 4.9 and 4.15 of the same programme had been effected in order to realize savings. However, he would like to have further clarification from the Controller as to the amount of savings that would result from the merging of the two consultations. With regard to the three programme elements recommended for deletion by CPC, the Secretariat appeared to be of the view that, since the Economic and Social Council had called for follow-up to those elements, their financial implications would be the same. However, he wished to point out that the output shown in the budget for programme element 4.10 consisted of substantive servicing of the second consultation on industrial financing, which was quite different from a simple follow-up action. Furthermore, it should be recalled that the consultations on the wood and wood products industry would be completed during the current biennium and that follow-up to them might be more appropriately placed in the context of the industrial operations programme. The Industrial Development Board had identified six areas of highest priority for consultations in the 1984-1985 biennium and another six areas for the 1986-1987 biennium; his delegation consequently believed that UNIDO efforts should be concentrated in those areas.

2. He proposed that when the Committee approved section 17 of the budget it should invite the Advisory Committee to look into the recommendations of CPC and the Economic and Social Council to see if the Secretariat's conclusions regarding financial implications were justified.

3. Mr. FORAN (Controller) pointed out that section VI of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/49 endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 286 (c) and (d) of the CPC report, subject to review by the Industrial Development Board. Furthermore, the resolution requested the Secretary-General to report to CPC on questions raised concerning the various programme elements in question. Since the eighteenth session of the Industrial Development Board had been scheduled for 2-18 May 1984 and the twenty-fourth session of CPC had been scheduled for the period 28 April-1 June 1984, it would be possible to refer the matter to both bodies for further review.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that during the 26th meeting many questions had been raised regarding the travel of Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers (SIDFAs). In dealing with that question the Committee had two courses of action open to it:

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(The Chairman)

either it could approve SIDFA-related costs as indicated in the budget proposals, or it could delete all such costs and consider them in conjunction with the financial implications of draft resolutions proposed in the Second Committee.

5. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) expressed support for the comments made by the Advisory Committee with regard to the travel of SIDFAs. However, the Advisory Committee's recommendation notwithstanding, the amount budgeted for UNIDO travel remained quite high.
6. If the Committee decided to follow the second course of action suggested by the Chairman, difficulties might arise in determining what portion of UNIDO travel funds would be utilized by the SIDFAs. The Secretary-General had requested an allocation to cover the travel of 40 SIDFAs, but the exact number of SIDFAs was as yet unknown. While his delegation had no difficulty with either course of action, it believed that the first, which involved taking a decision on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee forthwith while keeping open the possibility of reverting to the question during the second reading, was more appropriate.
7. Mr. DITZ (Austria) agreed that the first course of action was the more appropriate, since the Advisory Committee's recommendation had already taken into account the uncertainties which might affect SIDFA travel.
8. Mr. ELDIN (Sudan) said that he, too, preferred the first course of action, provided that the question of funds for SIDFAs could be reviewed in the light of draft resolutions proposed in the Second Committee.
9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee with regard to the travel of SIDFAs, on the understanding that it could review the matter later in the light of any relevant decisions taken by the Second Committee.
10. It was so decided.
11. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse the recommendations of CPC, as contained in paragraphs 286 to 291 of the latter's report (A/38/38 (Part I)), subject to the understanding expressed by the Economic and Social Council in section VI of its resolution 1983/49.
12. It was so decided.
13. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question which had been asked at the 26th meeting about the JIU study referred to in paragraph 289 of the CPC report (Part II), said he had learned that JIU would be able to study the question and that the Second Committee was also currently studying the matter.
14. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland) said that her delegation accepted the recommendation of CPC with regard to the consultations on the wood and wood products industry on the

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(Ms. Mustonen, Finland)

understanding that the follow-up specified in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/49 would continue and that consideration of that programme element by CPC in 1984 would take into account the progress achieved since the most recent consultation and any relevant decisions of the Industrial Development Board.

15. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision with regard to the United States proposal that the Committee should request the Advisory Committee to examine the financial implications of the action recommended in paragraphs 286 (c) and (d) of the CPC report as well as of the merger of programme elements 4.9 and 4.15, and report thereon to the General Assembly.

16. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that if the Fifth Committee wanted the Advisory Committee to look into the matter, it would do so; however, he had listened to the Controller's statement, and it appeared clear that the Economic and Social Council had invited the Secretary-General to report on the matter to CPC in 1984. Consequently, it was not clear what recommendation the Advisory Committee might make to the Fifth Committee, unless the Fifth Committee wished the Advisory Committee to report on the amount of resources involved in implementing section VI of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/49. That did not necessarily mean that the Advisory Committee would recommend a reduction of funds under section 17.

17. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) offered to explain his proposal in greater detail. Although the Economic and Social Council resolution had called for the resources that would be released following the implementation of CPC recommendations to be used to provide follow-up to the consultations, there was a difference between servicing the consultations and follow-up activities. Furthermore, the merger of programme elements 4.9 and 4.15 was not covered by the Economic and Social Council resolution and no indication of the savings that might be realized from that merger had yet been presented to the Committee. It was from that standpoint that the Advisory Committee might consider the matter. However, if there was any objection to his proposal, he would withdraw it.

18. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) agreed with the representative of the United States that it might be better for the Advisory Committee to consider the question on the basis of information to be provided by the representative of the Secretary-General.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee endorsed the proposal of the United States.

20. It was so decided.

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take the necessary decisions with regard to budgetary appropriations. The representative of the United States had requested a separate vote on the provisions relating to the travel of representatives of the African liberation movements, referred to in paragraph 17.17 of document A/38/6, and the travel of representatives of least developed countries, referred to in

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(The Chairman)

paragraph 17.38 of the same document. The amounts in question were, respectively, \$29,500 and \$121,300, or a total of \$150,800. Delegations were therefore invited to vote on the proposal to include provisions totalling \$150,800 under section 17 of the programme budget for 1984-1985 for the purposes described in paragraphs 17.17 and 17.38 of document A/38/6.

22. The proposal was adopted by 70 votes to 4, with 7 abstentions.

23. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and taking into account the decisions just taken, the Fifth Committee should approve in first reading an appropriation of \$73,857,800 under section 17 of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to approve that appropriation without a vote.

24. It was so decided.

25. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), supported by Mr. HELLENBORG-HUBAR (Netherlands) and Mr. RALLIS (Greece), said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the understanding that the question of travel of SIDFAs could be reopened once the exact number of SIDFAs was known.

26. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that the estimates for section 17 were considerably higher than the appropriations for the current biennium. The Secretary-General had requested a number of new posts and proposed the unjustified reclassification of others. Some \$3 million had been included in the estimates for inflation. Proposed expenditure on travel was too high. The Advisory Committee had recommended a justifiable cut in the estimates but, in the view of his delegation, it could have gone much further than it had. His delegation agreed, in particular, with the Advisory Committee's view that extrabudgetary activities should not be charged to the regular budget. If the estimates for section 17, had been put to a vote, his delegation would not have been able to support them.

27. Mr. ELDIN (Sudan) expressed support for the activities of UNIDO and the appropriation requested under section 17.

28. Mr. RINCON (Venezuela) said that had the appropriations requested in paragraphs 17.17 and 17.38 of the proposed programme budget been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted in favour.

29. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Finland with regard to the system of consultations. It was to be hoped that the follow-up on the wood and wood products industry would continue in the light of the relevant resolution of the Economic and Social Council. The Industrial Development Board could decide at its eighteenth session on fresh priority areas on the basis of the proposed consultations.

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Section 18. United Nations Environment Programme

30. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General was requesting \$12,585,600 under section 18 and that the Advisory Committee was recommending that the estimates should be reduced slightly, by \$365,700.

31. A main feature of the Secretary-General's proposals was the transfer to the regular budget of a number of posts currently financed from the Fund of UNEP. The transfer was being proposed on the basis of guidelines already considered in the Fifth Committee in the context of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). The Advisory Committee agreed to the transfer of all the posts concerned with the exception of one P-5 and two local-level posts referred to in paragraphs 18.44 (c), 18.44 (e) and 18.44 (g) of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee had studied the explanations provided by the Secretary-General and had concluded that he had failed to make a convincing case for the transfer of the P-5 post. In the Advisory Committee's view, the functions of the post described in paragraph 18.44 (c) could also fall within the scope of the Environment Fund.

32. The other reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee related to the vacancy situation in UNEP and to the estimates for travel. In paragraph 18.12 of its report, the Advisory Committee stated its view that, when posts were transferred to the regular budget, it should not automatically be assumed that travel and other expenditure would increase accordingly. The Advisory Committee had consistently emphasized that travel was a function of the operational requirements of an organizational unit and not of the number of posts in that unit.

33. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to the views of CPC on section 18, as contained in paragraphs 275 to 288 of its report (A/38/38 (Part II)).

34. Mr. SOKOLOVSKY (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that one of the ways of enhancing the efficiency of UNEP was to improve co-ordination with other organizations of the United Nations system engaged in similar activities. It was also essential for UNEP to plan its activities carefully, concentrating resources on the most important projects, and, in general, to make the most economic use of the resources made available by Member States. While UNEP had made some efforts in that direction, members could not close their eyes to the shortcomings in the management of the Programme which had been identified by CPC and the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General's request for UNEP was nearly \$1.2 million higher than the appropriation for the current biennium. One of the main reasons for the increase was the transfer of a large number of posts previously financed from the Environment Fund to the regular budget. That practice ran counter to every principle of good management. The transfer of the posts would mean that activities never considered by the General Assembly would be charged to the regular budget, thereby undermining the principle of respect for established priorities. The regular budget should not be used to finance activities which were not of concern to all Member States. Moreover, it was wrong to transfer to the regular budget posts which had been filled in accordance with a principle other than equitable

(Mr. Sokolovsky, Byelorussian SSR)

geographical distribution. His delegation regretted that the Advisory Committee had recommended approval of five of the eight transfers requested. It did, however, support the recommendations in paragraphs 18.11 and 18.12 relating to the turnover deduction and travel.

35. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) commended the Governing Council of UNEP on the steps it had taken to rationalize its work and activities, and encouraged other United Nations bodies to do likewise.

36. The criteria for determining whether a post should be charged to the regular budget or financed from extrabudgetary resources were set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII). While recognizing fully that there was often a grey area, his delegation held that proposals to transfer of posts to the regular budget should be evaluated on their merits on a case-by-case basis. Although the Secretary-General was requesting the transfer of eight posts to the regular budget, he noted that there was no corresponding decrease in the number of Professional posts financed from extrabudgetary resources and that the number of local-level staff would be increased. Thus, the Secretary-General's proposal amounted to the transfer of eight posts to the regular budget and the creation of new extrabudgetary posts. His delegation could not accept that practice. If the Secretary-General's request had been to establish new posts under the regular budget, entirely different criteria would apply. He wished to know how long the eight posts in question had been financed under the Environment Fund and why it was now deemed necessary to transfer them to the regular budget. The Advisory Committee's review had not been rigorous enough, and his delegation was not fully convinced that there was any justification for transferring three of the Professional posts and three local-level posts to the regular budget.

37. Mr. GIDLEY (United States of America) said that the decision of UNEP to reduce the length of the sessions of the Governing Council and to eliminate certain other meetings was a very positive step, which, he hoped, would be duly noted by the United Nations itself and other organizations of the system. Since his delegation was opposed in principle to the transfer of extrabudgetary posts to the regular budget, it could not support the appropriation requested.

38. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that efforts to establish a rationale for apportioning the expenses of UNEP between the regular budget and the Environment Fund went back some 10 years. The matter had first been brought to the attention of the General Assembly in a report submitted jointly by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General at the thirty-first session (A/C.5/31/39). That report had contained proposals for the transfer of a number of posts from the Environment Fund to the regular budget, the overall aim of which was to achieve a 40:60 ratio for the distribution of staff costs between the regular budget and the Fund. It had been intended to effect the transfers gradually, beginning with the biennium 1978-1979. The Advisory Committee had concluded at that time that it could not endorse the proposed ratio and recommended that any proposal to increase the regular budget establishment should be accompanied by full justification in terms of functions and grading on a post-by-post basis.

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(Mr. Foran)

39. In his budget proposals for the biennium 1978-1979, the Secretary-General had requested the transfer of 12 posts from the Environment Fund to the regular budget. Of those, 9 had been approved by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. At that time, the Advisory Committee had noted that some future proposals for the transfer of posts established under the Environment Fund prior to 1977 were to be expected. However, ACABQ had also expressed the view that the practice of creating new posts under the Fund should be discontinued if there was to be an increase in the appropriation under the regular budget.

40. No further transfers had been proposed in the programme budgets for the bienniums 1980-1981 and 1982-1983, even though UNEP had requested a number of transfers. In formulating the current budget proposals, special attention had been paid to General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), which provided that a small secretariat should be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination and that the costs of that secretariat and of the servicing of the Governing Council should be borne by the regular budget. There had been a delay of four years in attempting to resolve the problem of apportioning expenses between the Environment Fund and the regular budget, and a concerted effort should be made at the current session to resolve the matter once and for all.

41. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said that, at previous sessions, representatives of the organizational units had been present at the meetings of the Fifth Committee when the estimates for their units were discussed. It seemed that that practice had been discontinued, and he inquired into the reasons why. An earlier speaker had criticized UNEP for certain shortcomings and mismanagement, and it would have been proper for a representative of UNEP to be present at the meeting in order to reply.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that, as he saw it, there was no obstacle to the presence of officials responsible for the various programmes under consideration. However, it had been felt that delegations' questions could be answered satisfactorily by the Secretary-General's representatives.

43. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said that, while recognizing the competence of the Secretary-General's representatives, he felt it important that the officials actually responsible for the programmes should be present. Moreover, charges of mismanagement had been implied in regard to certain questions; it was only right, therefore, that the persons directly responsible should be given a chance to reply. He asked for confirmation that there was nothing to prevent their doing so, and he reserved his delegation's right to raise the matter again at a subsequent meeting.

44. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) observed that the Fifth Committee was entitled to request the Secretary-General to supply information of any kind in addition to that provided by his representatives. However, it should be left to the Secretary-General to decide who, among his representatives, should provide that information. The Fifth Committee should refrain from deciding which programme manager should or should not attend its meetings. That should be left to the Secretary-General to decide.

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45. Mr. HANSEN (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination) endorsed the comments of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. He felt that the questions raised regarding the transfer of posts to the regular budget had been answered satisfactorily, and that the questions raised about UNEP management and any other specific expressions of dissatisfaction could be suitably dealt with.

46. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said that his delegation viewed the matter as one of principle. It was a question not of individuals but of institutions, and it was important that responsible representatives of the institutions concerned should be present so that they might respond.

47. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee, in seeking any further information, would take account of the considerations outlined by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

48. It was so decided.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee endorsed the recommendations of CPC, as contained in paragraphs 287 and 288 of the latter's report (A/38/38 (Part II)).

50. It was so decided.

51. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegation of the Soviet Union had proposed the deletion of \$433,300 for the transfer of the five posts referred to in paragraph 18.9 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/38/7).

52. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation also requested a vote on section 18 as a whole. In view of its well-known position regarding staff increases, it would vote against approval of that section.

53. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the transfer of the five posts and of section 18 as a whole. In its view, all transfers should be considered individually on their merits, bearing in mind the explanations given by the Secretary-General's representatives.

54. The Soviet proposal was rejected by 76 votes to 10, with 4 abstentions.

55. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$12,219,900 under section 18 for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading by 82 votes to 8.

Section 19. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

56. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$320,400 in the amount of \$10,901,900 proposed by the Secretary-General under

(Mr. Mselle)

section 19 of the proposed programme budget. Of that reduction, the sum of \$247,000 was explained in paragraph 19.7 of the ACABQ report; it was proposed in view of the vacancy situation, which in 1982 had averaged 23.6 per cent of posts in the Professional and higher categories. The remaining reduction, explained in paragraph 19.12 of the ACABQ report, related to the production of a second edition of the global report on human settlements. The Advisory Committee felt that the estimated production cost should be reduced by \$73,400.

57. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to the views of CPC on section 19 as contained in paragraphs 289 to 301 of its report (A/38/38 (Part II)). In response to an observation by Mr. Sagrera (Spain), he said that the amount of \$110,901,900 in the Spanish text of the proposed programme budget would be corrected to read \$10,901,900.

58. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee endorsed the recommendations of CPC, as contained in paragraphs 298 and 301 of the latter's report (A/38/38 (Part II)).

59. It was so decided.

60. Mr. GIDLEY (United States of America) proposed the deletion of the provision of \$26,000 referred to in paragraph 19.11 of the proposed programme budget, since that provision related, inter alia, to the travel of members of national liberation movements.

61. The United States proposal was rejected by 72 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.

62. Mrs. REBONG (Philippines) said that her delegation had inadvertently recorded a vote in favour by the Peruvian delegation, which had been absent, in addition to its own; the number of affirmative votes should therefore be reduced by one.

63. Mr. SIBOMANA (Burundi) said that, had his delegation been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour.

64. Mr. VAN HELLENBERG HUBAR (Netherlands) said that, although his Government's support for national liberation movements was well known, his delegation had abstained during the vote because its definition of a national liberation movement did not necessarily coincide with what was reflected in paragraph 19.11.

65. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$10,581,500 under section 19 for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading without a vote.

66. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the appropriation recommended under section 19 represented an increase of some \$1.7 million, or 19.3 per cent, over the appropriation for the current biennium; such an increase was unwarranted. Moreover, part of it would be used for activities in connection with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless,

(Mr. Khalevinsky, USSR)

contrary to the view of the Economic and Social Council that international years should be financed from voluntary contributions. A further provision of \$720,000 was for additional posts and post reclassifications. His delegation, in view of its well-known position on that subject, would have voted against the appropriation had the matter been put to a vote.

67. Mr. GIDLEY (United States of America) said that his delegation had expressed concern about the financial implications of the action proposed at the sixth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, and was dismayed to note that the proposals just approved reflected an increase of some 17 per cent over the appropriation for the current biennium. His delegation had opposed the creation of four posts for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, although it now noted that the posts would be temporary. Because of the increase involved, his delegation would have abstained had a vote been taken on section 19 as a whole.

68. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had been prepared to approve the activities of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless on the understanding that they would be financed by voluntary contributions. Since, however, the programme provisions for the Year were included in section 19, his delegation would have abstained in the event of a vote on that section.

69. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the understanding that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless would be organized pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and that the posts created would be eliminated after 1987.

70. Mr. EL SAFTY (Egypt) said that his delegation would have voted in favour of the appropriation had it been voted on. There had been an understanding at Helsinki that activities relating to the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless would be funded from extrabudgetary sources. It would, however, be legitimate for them to be financed from the regular budget, as similar activities often were. It should be noted that the real rate of increase in section 19 of the budget was only 2.5 per cent.

71. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation would have abstained, had the appropriation been put to a vote.

#### Section 20. International drug control

72. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's only negative recommendation was contained in paragraph 20.7 of its report. The Advisory Committee felt unable to support the proposed upgradings from P-2 to P-3.

73. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to the views of CPC on section 20, as contained in paragraphs 302 to 317 of its report (A/38/38 (Part II)). In connection with the recommendation contained in paragraph 316 (g), which had financial implications, he said that the Advisory Committee had recommended that the additional cost of issuing the Bulletin on Narcotics in Arabic should be absorbed.

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74. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that drug control was an appropriate area for international co-operation, in view of which his delegation supported the appropriation recommended under section 20. Sweden would look favourably on still higher appropriations in future on the understanding that resources would be used effectively. In that connection, it seemed that co-ordination and co-operation between the three Secretariat units covered by section 20 of the budget could be improved. Resources were not being used as well as they might be. The Administrative Management Service had prepared an in-depth study of the question of drug control in 1980 and there had also been a study by the Joint Inspection Unit. Yet the Secretary-General seemed to have taken no action further to those studies. His delegation wished to know what steps were being taken by the Secretariat to improve co-ordination. CPC was to carry out a review of drug control activities in 1985. It would be of interest to know what approach would be adopted.

75. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse the recommendations of CPC, as contained in paragraphs 316 and 317 of the latter's report (A/38/38 (Part II)).

76. It was so decided.

77. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$5,915,000 under section 20 for the biennium 1984-1985 was approved in first reading without a vote.

78. Mr. KHALEVINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that activities under section 20 of the budget had a low priority. Had the appropriation been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against it.

#### Section 21. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

79. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had submitted an estimate of \$32,274,300 for UNHCR. The Advisory Committee was recommending a net reduction of \$652,500. The Advisory Committee had accepted all the Secretary-General's proposals, with the exception of the proposed transfer of 28 posts to the regular budget.

80. The question of the transfer of posts from extrabudgetary funding to the regular budget had a long history. At the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had submitted a report reviewing the financing of the administrative costs of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/C.5/37/1), and the Advisory Committee had submitted its recommendations thereon in document A/37/7/Add.3. The Advisory Committee's observations had subsequently led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 37/238, which had taken note of the report of the Secretary-General and had endorsed the Advisory Committee's view of how the proposed transfer of 65 Professional and 45 General Service posts to the regular budget should be dealt with. The Advisory Committee had proposed, and the General Assembly had accepted, that the transfers should be handled on a case-by-case basis.

(Mr. Mselle)

81. The Secretary-General had proposed that 22 Professional and 6 General Service posts should be transferred to the regular budget in the biennium 1984-1985, and that 22 local-level posts should be transferred from the regular budget to voluntary funds. Consideration of the requests would have been facilitated had the Administration not invoked the AMS survey of the Office of the UNHCR. One of the AMS findings had been that 7 Professional and 7 General Service posts should be phased out. The Secretary-General, in submitting his estimates, had stated that the actual number of posts to be transferred to the regular budget would depend on how many of those 14 posts were actually phased out. For example, if it were decided not to phase out the 7 Professional posts, the net addition to the regular budget by transfer from extrabudgetary funds would be 15 Professional posts.

82. The procedure used was rather involved, and left the Fifth Committee and General Assembly unaware of exactly how many posts were being requested for transfer to the regular budget. The Administration should have decided on the status of the 14 posts recommended for phasing out by AMS before making its proposal to transfer 28 posts to the regular budget. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the 14 posts which the Administration had established on a temporary basis until July 1984 should be fully restored to the regular budget, and that 15 Professional posts should be transferred to the regular budget. The Advisory Committee had also recommended that the 7 General Service posts identified by AMS should remain in the regular budget for the time being. There was thus no need to transfer the 6 General Service posts proposed by the Secretary-General. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee did support the transfer to extrabudgetary sources of the 22 local-level posts.

83. The Advisory Committee's recommendations, in paragraphs 21.7 to 21.10, were logical and understandable. The details of the Professional posts which the Advisory Committee did not wish to see transferred for the time being were contained in paragraph 21.9.

84. The Advisory Committee had noted that the inflation rate for UNHCR's field activities and information centres was too high, and had recommended a reduction in the rate from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

85. It should be noted that if the Fifth Committee approved the recommendation in paragraph 324 of the report of CPC (A/38/38 (part II to phase out)) 7 Professional and 7 General Service posts in the Office of UNHCR, it would be contradicting some of the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee. That CPC recommendation seemed to relate not to the programme aspects but to the financial aspects of the Office, which would be considered by the Fifth Committee in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

86. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members to the views of CPC, as contained in paragraphs 318 to 325 of its report (A/38/38 (part II)).

87. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, said that paragraph 323 of the

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(Mr. Tommo-Monthe, United Republic  
of Cameroon)

second part of CPC's report contained its usual recommendation that the presentation of estimates should conform to the prescribed format and to the subprogramme structure of the medium-term plan. CPC was, however, ready to accept a degree of flexibility in that regard.

88. The wording of paragraph 324 was rather confusing. CPC had merely intended to say that it viewed the matter in terms of activities rather than posts, and that if the activities in question were ended the relevant posts would be discontinued. CPC had not wished to infringe on the mandate of the Advisory Committee, but had wished to make clear its desire to see the posts discontinued if the organizational structure was modified.

89. The proposed programme budget indicated the outputs to which the Secretary-General was committed once the Assembly had approved the budget. The Secretary-General must monitor those outputs and report on programme performance, in accordance with the Regulations annexed to resolution 37/234.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.