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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ali Ben-Said KHAMIS (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Report of the International Civil Service Commission" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.
2. The Committee had before it the fifth annual report of the International Civil Service Commission. <sup>1/</sup> Chapter III of the Commission's report, dealing with pensionable remuneration and pension entitlements as elements of total remuneration, was considered in conjunction with the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board under item 106 of the agenda, "United Nations pension system" and is covered by the report dealing with that agenda item (A/34/775).
3. The remaining chapters of the Commission's report were considered by the Fifth Committee under agenda item 105 at the 38th, 46th, 47th, 55th, 60th and 62nd meetings, on 6, 13, 14, 21, 27 and 28 November. Comments made by delegations in the course of the discussion of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/34/SR.38, 46, 47, 55, 60 and 62).
4. The Acting Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission introduced the Commission's report in an oral statement before the Fifth Committee at its 38th meeting, on 6 November (A/C.5/34/SR.38, paras. 60-76).

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<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/34/30 and Corr.1).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

5. At the 60th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.23) on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, subsequently joined by Uruguay.

6. The Committee resumed its consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.23 at the 62nd meeting, on 28 November, at which time the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking on behalf of the sponsors, stated that they were withdrawing paragraph 2 of section II of the text, as introduced.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed as an oral amendment the addition of a new paragraph 3 of section II, the text of which was identical to that of the former paragraph 2 which had been withdrawn by the sponsors.

8. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic introduced an oral subamendment to the proposed new paragraph 3 of section II, whereby the last line would read as follows:

"unless evidence of relocation to the country of origin is provided".

9. The amendment of the Syrian Arab Republic was rejected by 45 votes to 18, with 26 abstentions.

10. The United States amendment was adopted by 59 votes to 5, with 24 abstentions.

11. Section II of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.23, as amended, was adopted by 87 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

12. Draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.23 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 88 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (see para. 15).

13. At the 60th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of the United States of America submitted a draft decision (A/C.5/34/L.24).

14. At the 62nd meeting, on 28 November, after statements had been made by a number of representatives, voting on the draft decision was postponed at the request of the sponsor. The matter was not reopened.

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

15. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

The General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the fifth annual report of the International Civil Service Commission, 2/

Reaffirming the central role of the Commission in the development of a single unified international civil service,

Endorsing the efforts of the Commission to strengthen the United Nations common system by adjusting it to changing circumstances, especially those caused by currency fluctuations,

Recalling its resolution 33/119 of 19 December 1978 which, in its sections I and II, set down important objectives for maintaining and reinforcing the common system and established guidelines for the future work of the Commission,

Suggesting that the Commission consider ways of reducing the length of its annual report while still making clear in its report or its annexes any recommendations to the General Assembly and the precise effect, impact and costs of any proposals,

I

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the actions taken by the International Civil Service Commission under articles 13 and 14 of its statute and urges the Commission to continue its work under its long-term function;

2. Requests the Commission to begin urgently a fundamental and comprehensive review of the purposes and operation of the post adjustment system with a view to eliminating distortions and anomalies in the resulting levels of remuneration at the various duty stations and grade levels and thereby achieving an improved mechanism for adjusting United Nations remuneration to reflect more accurately the differences in the cost of living at the various duty stations and their evolution over time as a result of inflation and currency fluctuations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

II

1. Approves the grading equivalency recommended by the Commission in paragraph 119 of its report to be used in comparing United States and United Nations remuneration;

2. Requests the Commission to examine the possibility of installing a contributory system of death grant benefits;

3. Decides that effective 1 January 1980 no staff member shall be entitled to any part of the repatriation grant unless evidence of relocation away from the country of the last duty station is provided;

III

Decides that any staff member joining the United Nations Secretariat on or after 1 January 1980 shall not be entitled to receive reimbursement from the United Nations Tax Equilization Fund or otherwise for national income taxes paid on lump sum pension payments received from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund; this decision will not affect staff members serving with the United Nations prior to 1 January 1980.

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