



## General Assembly

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ENGLISH

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Wednesday, 18 December 1985, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. DE PINIES (Spain)

later: Mr. MAKEKA (Vice-President) (Lesotho)

- Report of the Economic and Social Council: chapters considered directly in plenary meeting [Chapters I, II, III (sections E), VIII and IX (sections A and B)] [12]
- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: [17] (continued)
  - (h) Appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women
- The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives [21]
- Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development [41]
- Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council [42]

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- Observance of the quinqucentenary of the discovery of America [43]
- Question of Cyprus [44]
- Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations [45]
- Consequences of the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq [46]
- Celebration of the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the British Empire [47]
- Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Fifth Committee [12] (continued)
- Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987: report of the Fifth Committee [116]
- Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Fifth Committee [119]
- Joint Inspection Unit: report of the Fifth Committee [120]
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Fifth Committee [122]
- Personnel questions: report of the Fifth Committee [123]
- Concluding statement by the President
- Suspension of the session

The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12 (continued)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: CHAPTERS CONSIDERED DIRECTLY IN PLENARY MEETING [Chapters I, II, III (sections F and H), VI (section E), VIII and IX (sections A and B)]

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Members will recall that chapters I, II, III (sections F and H), VI (section E), VIII and IX (sections A and B) of the report of the Economic and Social Council were assigned to plenary meetings.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of those chapters of the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 12.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- (h) APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now turn its attention to agenda item 17 (h), concerning the appointment of the members of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. The terms of office of the present five members of the Consultative Committee appointed under General Assembly decision 37/326 of 21 December 1982 expire on 31 December 1985.

Following consultations, I have appointed India, Kenya and Norway as members of the Consultative Committee for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1986. May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of those appointments?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Regarding the remaining two vacancies, I have been informed by the Chairmen of the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American States that further consultations will be needed before candidates can be endorsed.

I shall therefore proceed to the appointment of the remaining members of the Consultative Committee as soon as candidates have been endorsed by those respective groups.

I therefore propose that item 17 (h) be kept on the agenda of the fortieth session of the Assembly.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees.

It was so decided.

#### AGENDA ITEM 21 (continued)

#### THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 21, "The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives".

In this connection the Assembly has before it two draft resolutions, A/40/L.34 and A/40/L.36. The sponsors of those two draft resolutions have requested that they not be put to the vote at this time and that this item be kept on the agenda of the fortieth session in order to allow for further consultations.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to retain this item on the agenda of the fortieth session?

It was so decided.

## AGENDA ITEM 41

## LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now consider agenda item 41, "Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development".

I would propose that agenda item 41 be kept open in order to allow for the continuation of informal consultations after the suspension of the session and to reconvene on short notice to consider any decision or agreements that might emerge from those negotiations. May I take it that the Assembly decides to accept that proposal?

It was so decided.

## AGENDA ITEM 42

## QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Next, I invite members to turn their attention to agenda item 42, "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council". I understand that there is no request to consider this item at the present session.

If that is the case, may I take it that the General Assembly decides to include the item in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session?

It was so decided.

## AGENDA ITEM 43

## OBSERVANCE OF THE QUINCENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now consider agenda item 43, "Observance of the quinqucentenary of the discovery of America. In this connection I have received a request that this item be kept on the agenda of the fortieth session in order to allow for further consultations.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to retain this item on the agenda of the fortieth session?

It was so decided.

## AGENDA ITEM 44

## QUESTION OF CYPRUS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We now turn to agenda item 44, "Question of Cyprus". Members will recall that on 20 September 1985 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the present session but deferred a decision on the allocation of the item to an appropriate time in the future.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to leave the question of Cyprus open at the present session. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that understanding and decides to retain the item on the agenda of its fortieth session?

It was so decided.

## AGENDA ITEM 45

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Next on our agenda this afternoon is agenda item 45, "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations".

(The President)

I have received a request to the effect that this item be retained on the agenda of the current session.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to retain this item on the agenda of the fortieth session?

It was so decided.

#### AGENDA ITEM 46

#### CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We turn now to agenda item 46, "Consequences of the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq". In this connection I have received a request that this item be kept on the agenda of the current session.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to retain this item on the agenda of the fortieth session?

It was so decided.

#### AGENDA ITEM 47

#### CELEBRATION OF THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now consider agenda item 47, "Celebration of the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the British Empire".

I understand there is no request to consider this item at the present session.

If that is the case, may I take it that the Assembly decides to include the item in the provisional agenda of the forty-first session?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 12 (continued), 116, 119, 120, 122 AND 123

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/40/1068)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/40/1069)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/40/1064)

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/40/1065)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/40/1066)

PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/40/1067)

Mr. Meltke (German Democratic Republic), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, presented the reports of that Committee (A/40/1068, A/40/1069, A/40/1064, A/40/1065, A/40/1966 and A/40/1067) and then spoke as follows:

Mr. MELTKE (German Democratic Republic), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: The plenary Assembly, having dealt this morning with 15 reports of the Fifth Committee, I now have the honour to introduce the remaining six reports for its consideration this afternoon.

In the first place, with regard to agenda item 12 the Fifth Committee has dealt with the portions of the report of the Economic and Social Council allocated to it, and its report is contained in document A/40/1068, which contains, in paragraph 5, two draft decisions, both of which were adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

The next item the President has indicated will be considered by the Assembly is agenda item 122 on the question of the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. The Fifth Committee's report in this regard is contained in document A/40/1066, which contains in paragraph 7 a draft resolution recommended by the Committee. This draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee by a recorded vote.



(Mr. Meltke, Rapporteur,  
Fifth Committee)

Agenda item 119 deals with the question of administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The report of the Fifth Committee on this item is contained in document A/40/1064, and the Committee recommends three draft resolutions and one draft decision for adoption by the General Assembly. All of them were adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

The next agenda item is item 116, which has occupied the attention of the Fifth Committee throughout most of the session, namely, the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. The Fifth Committee concluded its consideration in the early hours of this morning; therefore time has not permitted an appropriate presentation of the related report in a consolidated document. It has been the practice of the General Assembly to consider the report on this item in the document considered by the Fifth Committee, with addenda or corrigenda reflecting the actions taken by the Committee.

I therefore wish to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/40/1069 - which is the number under which the consolidated report will eventually be issued in its final form - and to the attachments to this document. They are the four parts of document A/C.5/40/L.20, with their addenda and corrigenda, to which reference is made in document A/40/1069.

The recommendations of the Fifth Committee under this agenda item are contained in part IV of document A/C.5/40/L.20 and consist of six draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I incorporates a number of different sections, each dealing with an individual special subject dealt with by the Committee.

Draft resolution II A is the draft resolution on the budget appropriations for the biennium 1986-1987.

(Mr. Meltke, Rapporteur,  
Fifth Committee)

Draft resolution II B relates to the income estimates for the biennium, while draft resolution II C concerns the financing of the appropriations for the year 1986.

Draft resolution III concerns unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium, and draft resolution IV concerns the Working Capital Fund for the same biennium.

Draft resolution V is entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly"; and, finally, draft resolution VI concerns the emoluments, pension scheme and conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice.

Draft resolutions II to VI were adopted by the Committee by vote.

As for draft resolution I, which contains several separate sections, the method by which the Fifth Committee dealt with each section is indicated in the body of the report.

The next item to be considered by the plenary Assembly this afternoon is the report on agenda item 123, "Personnel questions", as contained in document A/40/1067.

In paragraph 17 of the report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution the Committee adopted by consensus. In addition, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of four draft decisions as indicated in paragraph 18 of the report. All the draft decisions were adopted by the Committee without a vote, except for paragraph (d) of draft decision I, dealing with the effective date of the implementation of the results of the classification of General Service posts at Headquarters. This paragraph was adopted by the Committee following a recorded vote, the details of which are indicated in paragraph 11.

(Mr. Meltke, Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

Finally, I have the honour to introduce the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 120 - Joint Inspection Unit - which appears in document A/40/1065. In it the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a draft resolution, which the Committee adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall consider that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in meetings of the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that in paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401, the General Assembly decided that when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

May I also remind members that, in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

The Assembly will first consider the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 12, dealing with those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which were allocated to the Fifth Committee. The Committee's report is contained in document A/40/1068.

The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft decisions contained in paragraph 5 of the report of the Fifth Committee.

(The President)

Draft decision I concerns the report of the Economic and Social Council.

The Fifth Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly adopts it?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Draft decision II is entitled "Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization".

The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): That concludes our consideration of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 12.

We now turn to agenda item 122, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations". That report is contained in document A/40/1066.

I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote before the voting.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes to reaffirm its belief in the principle of collective responsibility in bearing the burdens of the budget. The principle of a country's ability to pay must be taken into consideration in determining the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations. That should be done in the light of a country's material capabilities and its economic commitments.

We do not agree with the methodology used by the Committee on Contributions, because we regard it as a deviation from the principle of a country's real ability

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

to pay. This methodology has led to an increase in the contributions of certain Member countries, like my own, and to a reduction or stabilization in the contributions of other Member countries. That makes the scale of assessments neither fair nor logical.

It is very well known to everyone that the Syrian Arab Republic is located in an area that has been the target of many Zionist, racist and colonialist plans and designs. The United Nations has been seized of the problems of that region ever since it was established in 1945. It is natural that these plans and designs have led to a constant and continuous increase in our military expenditures - even to the detriment of other expenditures for urgent needs. For our military expenditures are related to foiling the plans and designs, on the one hand, and to liberating the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights, and preserving our independence and sovereignty, on the other.

It would have been difficult to oppose the increase decided upon by the Committee for country contributions if it had been based on the discovery of any new mineral wealth or on the solution of some economic problem confronting my country. In that case, the increase could be justified. But parts of my country are still languishing under the yoke of Zionist occupation, and those are the most fertile parts of the country, from the economic and agricultural points of view.

Each Member State has the right to ask for a minimum linkage between its assessment and a change in its economic situation - for in the final analysis, it is such a change that determines its ability to pay.

Finally, we very much wish that the Committee on Contributions, in determining my country's contribution to the budget, had taken into consideration all the facts that I have set out.

We cannot support the new scale proposed by the Committee on Contributions. It should pursue its endeavours to find a fairer methodology for the apportionment

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

of the expenses of the United Nations in order truly to reflect Member States' real ability to pay.

Mr. MAHBUBANI (Singapore): Singapore supports the work done by the Committee on Contributions and is highly appreciative of its efforts to prepare the recommended scale for the next triennium. However, regrettably, we are unable to support its recommended scale for the next triennium.

To avoid any misunderstanding of our position, let me state Singapore's firm commitment to two fundamental points. First, we believe that the least developed countries should be assessed at the floor level. None of these States should be made to bear any additional burden. Secondly, we believe in the principle that it is the collective responsibility of all Member States to contribute to the United Nations regular budget on the basis of their capacity to pay. We accept the fact that as developing countries achieve some economic progress they should be prepared to bear a bigger share of the financial burden of this Organization. However, the financial burden of this Organization must be borne fairly and equitably by all States. A few States should not be penalized. Unfortunately, the recommended scale before us does not satisfy those criteria and has penalized a few States, including Singapore.

The greatest flaw of the present methodology of assessment is its inability to provide a uniform measure to compare the economic performances of the centrally planned and the market economies. This is due to the failure of the present methodology to correct the distortions in statistics provided by the Socialist economies which are caused by inflation and exchange-rate fluctuations.

(Mr. Mahbubani, Singapore)

That has resulted in a highly untenable situation, where despite the high growth rates achieved by the socialist countries they have been given substantial reductions in their contributions in the next scale. At the same time, the majority of countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development will have no increases. It therefore seems patently unfair that the Group of 77 as a whole should have its scale increased by 33 points while the socialist bloc as a whole has its assessment reduced by 64 points. Even more regrettably, the largest single reduction for any State will be enjoyed by the Soviet Union, a permanent member of the Security Council and one of the world's two super-Powers. My delegation finds that situation to be extremely unfair. The large number of countries that either voted against or abstained in the vote when this scale of assessments was put to the vote in the Fifth Committee provides an indication of how widely that sentiment is shared.

Over the years Singapore has seen its assessed contribution unfairly increased substantially. No special consideration has been given to our unique case as a developing island State with no natural resources - I repeat: no natural resources. Owing to the large foreign component of our gross national product, the use of national income statistics as the basic criterion for the assessment of our scale is unfair, since a more accurate reflection of our earnings would be our indigenous gross national product, which is approximately 20 per cent lower than the nominal national income.

Instead of being given any special consideration for our unique situation, we find ourselves treated just like any other developed State by the Committee on Contributions during its assessment of our contribution. Under the present methodology no distinction is made between developed and developing countries in the distribution of the burden of relief. Developing countries such as ours with a per capita income greater than \$2,200 have to bear the same proportion of relief

(Mr. Mahbubani, Singapore)

burden as the developed countries. That also is unfair, but since my statement in the Fifth Committee went into this question at length I shall not elaborate on the point here.

We regret also that during the process of mitigation little objectivity was shown by the Committee on Contributions in the distribution of mitigation points. As a result, that relief mechanism has not benefitted all those Member States that deserve relief. We hope that situation will not be repeated for the following triennium of 1989-1991.

For those reasons, and given the difficult economic circumstances that Singapore is facing now, the delegation of Singapore cannot support the recommended scale and will therefore vote against it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take decisions on the recommendations of the Fifth Committee contained in paragraphs 7 and 8 of its report (A/40/1066).

The General Assembly will first take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of that report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Romania,



Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Against:** Bahrain, Colombia, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela

**Abstaining:** Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Portugal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The draft resolution was adopted by 109 votes to 15, with 27 abstentions (resolution 40/248).

**The PRESIDENT** (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision contained in paragraph 8 of the report (A/40/1066). The Fifth Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly that it continue at its forty-first session the negotiations on the methodology for the elaboration of future scales of assessments.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that draft decision?

**The draft decision was adopted.**

**The PRESIDENT** (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 122.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 119, entitled "Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" (A/40/1064).

The General Assembly will take decisions on the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report of the Fifth Committee.

(The President)

Draft resolution I is entitled "Impact of inflation and monetary instability on the regular budget of the United Nations". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 40/249).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Draft resolution II concerns administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 40/250).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Draft resolution III also was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 40/251).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We shall now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report (A/40/1064). May I consider that the General Assembly adopts that draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 119.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 116, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987" (A/40/1069).

I call upon the Secretary-General.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Assembly has heard, during the present fortieth session, statements of high importance from the senior leaders of most Member States. Their voices have confirmed the contribution to the improvement of global conditions of life made over the past 40 years by the United Nations. Of greatest potential significance, support for the Organization and commitment to the Charter have been widely reaffirmed in the interest of realizing those basic purposes for which the United Nations was created, and which retain their full validity. The future will be greatly, perhaps decisively, influenced by the seriousness and constancy of intent which underlie those reaffirmations. I said during the commemorative meeting of the Assembly that they need to be

"backed up by responsible negotiations towards resolving major disputes and in the key areas of arresting the arms race, overcoming the crisis in development and promoting human rights". (A/40/PV.49, p. 6)

I would add to that today another area: the assurance of the financial integrity of the Organization itself.

(The Secretary-General)

The effectiveness of all the programmes of the United Nations, and the attainment of those purposes which have such universal endorsement, depend heavily on the reliable availability of resources as provided in the Charter and on the efficiency and vision with which these resources are utilized. I have asked for the opportunity to speak to the plenary meeting, now that the budget for the next biennium is to be adopted, because of my concern that, precisely in this respect, the integrity of the Organization may stand in jeopardy. The United Nations now confronts problems related to the budget which, beyond the financial soundness of the Organization, can challenge its political cohesion and its capacity to execute the programmes agreed to by Member States.

Since assuming the duties of Secretary-General, I have been guided by a deep sense of responsibility to all Member States to contain the costs of the United Nations to the greatest extent possible without prejudice to the agenda of work mandated by Member States. I have no doubt that this corresponds to the wish of the Assembly. For two successive biennia, I have put forward budgets in a spirit of maximum restraint, resulting in insignificant growth. Yet substantial additional demands have been accommodated. For illustrative purposes, I will cite just one example: during the 1984-1985 biennium, the work-load of interpretation, editing, and reproduction for conference servicing increased by 7 per cent over the previous biennium. The level of resources utilized remained constant. Expenditures under the budget to be adopted by you today are, in real terms, only slightly more than the budget you adopted for 1984-1985.

To accomplish this economy, expenditures have been strictly controlled. Recruitment of professional personnel was frozen for six months in order to encourage a disciplined assessment of needs. Overtime pay has been under careful scrutiny. The travel of staff members to international and intergovernmental meetings is co-ordinated and controlled in my own Executive Office and the amount

of such travel has been substantially reduced. Savings have also been made in consultancies. The Assembly, by its action, has frozen the salaries, allowances, and pensions of professional staff beginning in 1985 and continuing well into the future.

I would emphasize on this occasion that I intend to continue a policy of maximum financial restraint. To do otherwise, at a time when so many Member States are burdened with unprecedented debt and serious deficits, would be irresponsible. A continuing process is under way within the Secretariat to attempt to identify areas where further savings can be achieved. I shall maintain this process and will, of course, undertake any steps I can towards further economies, provided that such savings will not be of a nature to prejudice the accomplishment of mandated programmes.

There are, in my view, also measures which the Assembly and its subsidiary bodies could, and I believe should, take to keep costs down. For example, the addition of supplementary expenditures not foreseen in the programme budget proposals submitted by the Secretary-General tends to weaken the effect of careful and disciplined budgetary planning. It might, therefore, be advantageous if, to a greater extent than is now the case, all projected expenses of the Organization were included in the programme budget as reviewed by the Committee on Programme Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and recommended by the Fifth Committee. Limits should be set and, where established, strictly maintained on the number and duration of meetings, on the documentation produced and on reports requested. I strongly ask that care be taken to schedule meetings so as to minimize related costs, and to take full advantage of the United Nations facilities in the Headquarters cities.

I believe it is necessary, however, to acknowledge that we face problems of a more fundamental nature. Even though the budget adopted by the Fifth Committee provides for a real growth of only 0.1 per cent, Member States which account for

(The Secretary-General)

almost 80 per cent of the assessed budget either cast a negative vote or abstained in the vote. This is disturbing evidence of a growing division in the membership on financial matters which, if long continued, can have very negative implications for the Organization. This division, I must emphasize, cannot be resolved through greater economies by the Secretary-General or by greater efficiency of management. It can only be alleviated through action of Member States. Earlier in the present Assembly session, I spoke to the Fifth Committee of the need for greater consensus on key financial issues. I would, on this occasion, reiterate this point. It is all the more reinforced by the absence of agreement yet again on one of these issues, namely, the manner in which the basis for the calculation of the scale of assessments could be reviewed. On the brighter side, I welcome the resolution adopted by the Assembly which developed from an initiative of Japan. I hope that recommendations to the forty-first session from the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, including recommendations on the key financial issues which I have mentioned, will provide a basis for greater unity and confidence among Member States. I will co-operate fully with the Group and take serious account of any suggestions specifically relating to management. I would only make clear that the responsibilities, as defined in the Charter, of the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer and his capacity to meet these responsibilities should not be prejudiced. Any action which would have that effect could bring adverse consequences for the operation of the United Nations.

Because of the depth of my concern and my profound commitment to the health and effectiveness of the United Nations, I feel compelled to speak in all frankness to the Assembly of another, not unrelated problem of utmost gravity facing the United Nations in the financial field. I refer to legislation enacted in a principal contributor State according to which that State will not contribute its full assessed contribution to the United Nations and the other agencies of the

(The Secretary-General)

system unless weighted voting is followed on all budgetary matters. Such withholding is scheduled to begin for the United Nations during 1986. The Charter, to which each Member State is bound as party to a solemn treaty, provides that the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly and that all Members shall fulfil, in good faith, the obligations assumed by them. The unilateral withholding of assessed contributions by any Member State is, I believe, contrary to these provisions and is destructive to the orderly implementation of the Organization's mandated programmes. If the amount withheld is of the size foreseen in the legislation in question, it will place the financial viability of the United Nations under enormous strain. Beyond that, such withholding would inevitably have a political effect on the strength and potential of the Organization. For these reasons, it is my earnest hope - and I have made my position clear on this matter - that this legislation will be altered. I will stay in contact with Member States through the Permanent Missions but would caution now that, depending on developments, it may be necessary to ask that the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee reconvene early in 1986.

Only a few short and busy weeks have passed since the impressive commemorative meetings of the Assembly. Clearly insufficient time has elapsed to judge the extent to which the high and serious attention given to the United Nations on that occasion will ultimately bring greater strength and authority to the Organization and contribute to the resolution of critical problems, long on our agenda. This session has seen positive accomplishments. The coming together of all Member States in the fight against the terrible plagues of terrorism and illicit drug traffic is a notable development. We can now expect the enhanced international co-operation which is essential if these problems are to be overcome. The preparations made for the Conferences on the Emergency Economic Situation in Africa

(The Secretary-General)

and on Disarmament and Development, to mention but a few examples, promise useful, constructive results in 1986. An encouraging, if less than comprehensive, reduction in the level of tension accompanying the debates and discussion has been evident and helpful during this session.

Yet there have been no breakthroughs on major political and economic problems. That situation has a direct bearing on the budgetary questions before us. Progress on political and economic issues could substantially reduce certain financial obligations of the United Nations, while encouraging a wider consensus on other difficult issues.

Clearly, the United Nations must be financially sound if it is to contribute its part to the resolution of present and future problems. There is a direct and critical relationship between the financial integrity of the United Nations, as foreseen in the Charter, and its capacity to attain the objectives for which it was founded. As we enter a year of challenge and hard decisions in this area, I believe it is of the highest importance to recognize that the maintenance of this integrity is in the interest of all Member States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendations contained in paragraph 129 of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/40/1069). For the time being, the text of these recommendations may be found in document A/C.5/40/L.20, Part IV and Corr.1 and Part IV, Add.1.

The Assembly will first consider draft resolution I, which is to be found in document A/C.5/40/L.20 Part IV, and which consists of 12 sections.

A recorded vote has been requested on section IV.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo,



Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Italy, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Section IV of draft resolution I was adopted by 135 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt sections I to III and V to XII?

Sections I to III and V to XII were adopted.

Draft resolution I, as a whole, was adopted (resolution 40/252).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We turn now to draft resolutions II A, B and C, to be found in document A/C.5/40/L.20 (Part IV) Add.1, which concerns the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

Draft resolution II A is entitled "Budget appropriations for the biennium 1986-1987". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution II A was adopted by 127 votes to 10, with 11 abstentions (resolution 40/253 A).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Draft resolution II B concerns income estimates for the biennium 1986-1987. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America

Draft resolution II B was adopted by 137 votes to 10 (resolution 40/253 B).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Draft resolution II C deals with financing of appropriations for the year 1986.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Israel, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution II C was adopted by 126 votes to 11, with 11 abstentions (resolution 40/253 C).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We turn now to draft resolution III, which is found in document A/C.5/40/L.20 (Part IV) and Corr.1 and which is entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1986-1987".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Draft resolution III was adopted by 139 votes to 8, with no abstentions (resolution 40/254).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Next we turn to draft resolution IV in document A/C.5/40/L.20 (Part IV) and which deals with the Working Capital Fund for the biennium 1986-1987. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 124 votes to 11, with 13 abstentions (resolution 40/255).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We turn to draft resolution V, dealing with conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee recommends the draft resolution for adoption. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution V?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 40/256).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Finally, we turn to draft resolution VI A, B and C, which concerns emoluments, pension scheme and conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Luxembourg, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia

Draft resolution VI (A), (B) and (C) was adopted by 121 votes to 11, with 15 abstentions (resolution 40/257 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): On the basis of the statement just made by the Secretary-General, I propose that this item be kept on the agenda of the fortieth session of the General Assembly. If I hear no objection I take it that the Assembly so decides.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 123, entitled "Personnel Questions" (A/40/1067). I call on the Secretary-General.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I have read with great attention the report of the Fifth Committee on this item and I wish to express my appreciation of the thorough and positive manner in which that Committee has dealt with the many important issues which it has considered under this item.

I wish, however, to place before the Assembly my concern on one very basic point. This relates to the reclassification of General Service staff and related categories, on which I have already had occasion to speak before the Fifth Committee.

I find myself in a difficult situation, essentially because thousands of staff members - drawn, after all, from the Member States of this Organization - find themselves in an even more difficult one. On the basis of assurances given under my authority and in good faith they had expected the results of the reclassification exercise to be implemented this year, but they now find that this implementation is being deferred until the General Assembly meets again. The perplexity and unhappiness of those staff members is increased by their knowledge that their colleagues in other parts of the United Nations system in New York have seen their regradings implemented.

This is an unhealthy situation, and whenever there is any such situation we should try to put an end to it as soon as possible. I note the reasons which have prevented the Assembly from considering this matter at its current session. I am also extremely appreciative of the recommendation of the Fifth Committee that the principle of retroactivity to 1 January 1985 be maintained, thus protecting the legitimate expectations of the staff and confirming my own assurances in that regard.



(The Secretary-General)

In looking for a solution to this problem I have noted the recommendation of the Fifth Committee in draft decision I of its report that the Assembly defer consideration of this issue until its forty-first session. I would hope, in this regard, that the Assembly could consider another possibility, namely, not to close consideration of this item but instead to keep it open, which would permit the Fifth Committee to consider this matter and reach a final determination on it as soon as it has before it the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the observations of the International Civil Service Commission. I leave that suggestion in your hands, Mr. President, and those of the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendations in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report of the Fifth Committee in document A/40/1067.

The draft resolution in paragraph 17 is entitled "Personnel questions" and concerns: A, the composition of the Secretariat; B, the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat; and C, respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations.

The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution by consensus. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 40/258 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The General Assembly will now turn to the four draft decisions in paragraph 18 of the report in document A/40/1067.

Draft decision I is entitled "Job classification of the General Service and related categories in New York". Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) were adopted by the Committee without objections. With regard to paragraph (b), it is my understanding,

(The President)

that, on the basis of informal consultations, there was general agreement that the words "or if possible before the session" should be inserted after the words "forty-first session" in the first line, so that the paragraph as a whole would read:

"(b) To consider at its forty-first session, or if possible before the session, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and any observations that may be made by the International Civil Service Commission;"

If I hear no objection, may I take it that the General Assembly adopts paragraphs (a) and (c), and paragraph (b) as amended, of draft decision I?

Paragraphs (a), (b) as amended, and (c) of draft decision I were adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Next the Assembly will consider paragraph (d) of draft decision I. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire

Against: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Argentina, Belize, Egypt, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Paragraph (d) of draft decision I was adopted by 103 votes to 22, with 15 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Draft decisions II, III and IV - entitled "Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations"; "Amendments to the Staff Rules"; and "Situation of General Service staff" - were recommended by the Fifth Committee for adoption by the General Assembly. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts those draft decisions.

Draft decisions II, III and IV were adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in explanation of vote.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation would like to affirm its commitment to the United Nations Convention on Privileges and Immunities and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of Specialized Agencies. My country offers United Nations international civil servants every assistance in accordance with those Conventions. Our commitment covers all United Nations international civil servants in Syria. There is no doubt that while Syria, like other countries, grants these privileges and immunities, it expects United Nations international civil servants to abide strictly by the Conventions, not to violate any of their terms, fully to respect their internal provisions related to the national sovereignty of the host country and to refrain from any act unrelated to their functions and mandate. My country endorses all these privileges and immunities, provided that that does not lead to interference in our internal affairs.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): On the basis of the adoption of draft decision I, if there is no objection, I suggest that the item now under consideration be kept on the agenda of the fortieth session of the Assembly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 120, "Joint Inspection Unit". The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 13 of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/40/1065).

That draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without objection.

May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to adopt that draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 40/259).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 120.

**PROGRAMME OF WORK**

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In the light of the action already taken at its 119th and 120th plenary meetings, as well as action taken at the present meeting, the General Assembly has decided to retain on the agenda of the fortieth session the following agenda items:

Item 16 (a), Election of two members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme; item 17 (h), Appointment of members of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; item 17 (l), Appointment of a member of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; item 21, The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives; item 41, Launching of global negotiations on international economic co-operation for development; item 43, Observance of the quincentenary of the discovery of America; item 44, Question of Cyprus; item 45, Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations; item 46, Consequences of the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq; item 84 and 84 (c), Development and international economic co-operation: trade and development; item 116, Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987; and item 123, Personnel questions.

With those exceptions, therefore, we have concluded our consideration of all the items on the agenda of the fortieth session.

## CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Tradition requires that, when we are on the point of concluding the work of a General Assembly session, the President should review the most outstanding features of that work.

I do not know how far distinguished delegates, subjected as they have been during these months to a veritable flood of words and now on the point of enjoying a well-deserved rest, need me to distract them by reminding them, for example, that once again the General Assembly has taken decisions on problems of such concern as the policy of apartheid of the Government of South Africa, the question of Palestine or those of Kampuchea and Afghanistan. Or that while we have solemnly commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the question of Namibia continues unresolved. Or that while unanimity has been achieved with regard to the convening of an International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, this unanimity disappeared as soon as the question of Antarctica was discussed. Or that, while general agreement certainly exists regarding the need for new approaches to dealing with the serious problem of external debt, the agreement is for the time being limited to that recognition, and disappears when it comes to seeking remedies. And that while it has been possible to reach agreement on such a controversial topic as international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, it remains impossible to do so on questions relating to information. Or the positive fact of the convening of another international conference, one on issues relating to drug use and trafficking, set against the continued violation of human rights in so many parts of the world. Or the unanimous adoption of resolutions on the protection of diplomatic and consular missions or on terrorism. And, lastly, the always complicated financial questions which arise in a budget and assessment year, discussed in the shadow of threats which are in all our minds.

(The President)

Rather than such a list, which I have just given in incomplete form, I would prefer to make some brief remarks about the spirit which prevailed during the conduct of this session and the lessons we can learn for the future.

This has been, above all, the session commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. It has been my privilege to preside over this General Assembly on an occasion when so many heads of State or Government, Special Envoys and Ministers for Foreign Affairs honoured us with their presence. They have all made their valuable intellectual contribution to the assessment of the Organization's successes and failures over that period. We have all been enriched by this debate, and I believe that, to a great extent, we have succeeded in recapturing for the United Nations the attention of world opinion, which we should never have lost. It is true that when it comes to forming a judgement on what some parties have referred to as a loss of prestige for the United Nations, we must, in all honesty, acknowledge that not everything has been positive in the past 40 years.

However, let us consider just the enormous task of decolonization. I referred at the outset to what still remains to be done in that field. Nevertheless the positive balance is so much greater in this case. I regard the coincidence of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration with the more extensive celebration of the fortieth anniversary as an extremely appropriate occasion for recalling once again that our Organization has been a genuine driving force behind the liberation of peoples under colonial domination, many of whose representatives are happily sitting here with us today.

I believe that it is fair to say that a feature of this year's debates, both in the Main Committees and in the plenary meetings, has been a greater degree of moderation and willingness to enter into compromise, while, of course, not failing

(The President)

to take account of the legitimacy of the positions of each and every Member State and the inevitability of differences of opinion on controversial matters.

However, an endeavour has been made, and perhaps this can be attributed to the commemorative spirit of this session, to overcome differences and to transmit to the world a message of solidarity in focusing on important and urgent questions. I have in mind, for example, the consensus reached on the condemnation of terrorism and on the critical economic situation in Africa, among many other issues.

Much has been said at this session about the need to reform the procedures and methods of work of the United Nations, and more particularly of the Assembly, with a view to rationalizing and streamlining them. For some time now I have been fully convinced of the urgent need for these improvements. I am convinced of the need to avoid the considerable loss of resources entailed in apparently very trivial matters, such as the chronic failure to be punctual so that meetings can begin on time, the sometimes unnecessary length of some debates, the excessive amount of documentation and the repetition, year after year, of virtually identical resolutions. It is sometimes these more down-to-earth matters that contribute to this supposed loss of prestige that some parties have claimed to note. I should like us to suspend this session with a firm undertaking to adopt genuinely effective and urgent measures designed to contribute to this streamlining of our activities.

Once again I wish to state what a pleasure and an honour it has been for me to preside over the fortieth session and to thank you all - first, for having made this possible and, secondly, for your co-operation these past few months.

I wish in particular to thank the Secretary-General, my old and good friend Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his friendship, sound advice and help at all times.



(The President)

I thank the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for their readiness to take this chair and thus to lighten the work of the President during a session which has been particularly filled with activities. I also thank the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees for their excellent work and their spirit of co-operation.

I wish to make a special mention of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs, Mr. William Buffum, and the entire staff of his Department for the invaluable help I have received from them. I would like to give special thanks to the Division of General Assembly Affairs for the difficult task which it has carried out in an exemplary fashion at all times.

My thanks also go to the Department of Conference Services, to the interpreters, translators, conference and documents officers, typists and press officers and to the efficient security services. I trust I have not overlooked any of those who contribute - whether visibly or behind the scenes - to the success of our work.

Finally, allow me to wish you all happy holidays and a peaceful and prosperous year in 1986.

#### SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I declare the fortieth session of the General Assembly suspended.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

