



CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 70:</i>	
<i>Personnel questions (continued):</i>	
(a) <i>Geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (continued);</i>	
(b) <i>Proportion of fixed-term staff (continued)</i>	243

*Chairman:* Mr. Jan Paul BANNIER  
 (Netherlands).

AGENDA ITEM 70

*Personnel questions (continued):*

- (a) *Geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (A/5270, A/C.5/933 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.727 and Add.1 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.747, A/C.5/L.751, A/C.5/L.754) (continued);*
- (b) *Proportion of fixed-term staff (A/C.5/938, A/C.5/L.749 and Corr.1) (continued)*

1. Sir Susanta DE FONSEKA (Ceylon) said that at the sixteenth session, the USSR representative had conclusively demonstrated that the geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat was seriously one-sided. Whatever the USSR's own responsibility for that state of affairs might have been, there could be no doubt that the situation had very much improved during the past year, as was clear from the Secretary-General's report (A/5270). Important changes had been made in the top-level posts and more than half of the appointments to such posts had been made from countries of Eastern Europe and Africa. In addition, almost 70 per cent of Member States were already well within or above the median of the desirable range of posts, and a further improvement could be expected in the future.

2. The debate on the present item at the sixteenth session had been heated and acrimonious, largely because the Secretariat, as it had then been composed, had failed to gain the confidence of a considerable number of Member States, which had felt that their views were not being given proper consideration. However, his delegation considered that the "troika" arrangement which had been proposed to remedy that situation was not only completely unacceptable, but positively dangerous; it was not only not in accordance with the Charter, but was a flagrant violation of it. The Secretariat's ability to carry out the decisions of the policy-making bodies must remain unimpaired. In any event, a remedy of that kind was no longer necessary, as the changes effected by the Acting Secretary-General since the sixteenth session were calculated to restore the confidence of Member States. Even at the sixteenth session, when there had been such strong diver-

gencies of view, there had been general agreement on the necessity for restoring confidence, and that had now largely been achieved.

3. The recommendations and suggestions made by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 68 and 69 of his report appeared sound and should be given a fair trial. In paragraphs 13 to 25 of the same report, he discussed the formula proposed by the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat in its report<sup>1/</sup> which was sensible and practical. His delegation supported the proposal of the Committee of Experts that in determining the geographical distribution of posts population should be a factor, but that the important factors should be membership and contributions. The new formula recommended by the Secretary-General should be tried out and the results assessed at the eighteenth session.

4. There should, however, be no drastic changes in the present staff structure, as they would impair the efficiency of the Organization. They were unnecessary in any event, as was clear from paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report. The career staff must necessarily continue to form a very important part of the Secretariat and they should be given the assurance that their interests would be protected as long as they served the Organization faithfully. The present proportion of fixed-term staff—a little over 25 per cent—was acceptable under existing circumstances, but it should not be exceeded.

5. Mr. MARSCHIK (Austria) welcomed the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.747) which gave the Secretary-General the specific guidance he had requested. He endorsed the second preambular paragraph, which contained a highly pertinent reference to Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter. At a time when the Secretary-General was called upon to find staff for an increasing number of missions, the important thing was not the nationality of staff members but their efficiency, competence and integrity. The representative of Iraq had very rightly said at the 953rd meeting, when introducing the draft resolution, that efficiency, competence and integrity could not be considered to be the monopoly of any country or region. For that reason, the second sentence of Article 101, paragraph 3, relating to geographical distribution, should be considered as complementary to the first, which provided that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff should be the necessity for securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs referred to the imbalances in the present geographical distribution of the staff and the need to correct them; but only one region—Eastern Europe—was now seriously under-represented. Those two

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 61, document A/4776.

paragraphs should therefore be read in conjunction with the third preambular paragraph, in which the General Assembly noted with appreciation the improvement brought about by the Acting Secretary-General. It was clear from the table in paragraph 11 and from table 1 (A/C.5/933 and Cor.1) that those improvements were substantial.

6. While he was in general agreement with the operative part of the draft resolution, he wished to suggest a few drafting changes which would improve it. In operative paragraph 1 (a), the word "international" might be inserted before the word "staff" to bring that paragraph into line with paragraph 69 (a) of the Secretary-General's report (A/5270). In the first sentence of operative paragraph 1 (b), the words "of staff subject to geographical distribution" might be inserted after the words "equitable geographical distribution" to make the meaning clearer. In that connexion, his delegation believed that contributions should continue to be the major factor in determining geographical distribution, for the Committee on Contributions took a very wide range of considerations into account in establishing the scale of assessment. However, membership and population, which were not taken into account by the Committee on Contributions, should also be given due weight.

7. He suggested that the words "regional composition" in operative paragraph 1 (d) should be replaced by the words "geographical distribution" and that the words "be directed towards the reduction of under-representation" in operative paragraph 1 (e) might be replaced with advantage by the words "take into consideration the need for more satisfactory geographical distribution".

8. As the draft resolution did not state whether or not the principle of geographical distribution should be applied to staff in the General Service category, it might be advisable to include a new operative paragraph endorsing the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 69 (c) of his report, namely, that all grades of General Service staff should be excluded from the scope of geographical distribution. Such staff had special duties and it would obviously be more expedient to recruit them from the country in which the Headquarters of the Organization was located.

9. He welcomed the fact that the draft resolution made no attempt to introduce the tripartite formula proposed by the USSR, a concept to which his delegation was, for a number of reasons, firmly opposed. He believed that, in particular, a rigid division of all nations into three such groups would not reflect the wide range of differences in political concept which distinguished individual nations that did not belong to the two military blocs. If the formula was adopted, it would be necessary constantly to change the composition of the Secretariat whenever countries shifted from one group to another. The formula would also seem to assume the perpetuation of the present division of the world, an assumption to which he could not subscribe. For those reasons he believed the USSR concept to be unrealistic, technically impracticable, and politically unacceptable.

10. Mr. CAIMEROM MEASKETH (Cambodia) said that the Secretary-General was to be congratulated on the report he had submitted in response to the request addressed to him by the Committee at the sixteenth session. There were, however, a few com-

ments he wished to make. First, the desirable range of posts shown in document A/C.5/933 and Corr.1, table 1, was calculated exclusively on the basis of the scale of assessments, which was unfortunate. However, in the absence of other criteria, it was understandable that the factor of contributions had been used. The situation would undoubtedly be improved by the adoption of the formula proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 69 (b) of his report (A/5270), which reflected the substance of the two draft resolutions<sup>2/</sup> on which the Committee had been unable to agree at the sixteenth session. That formula would apply to about 60 per cent of the Secretariat staff, which was a satisfactory proportion.

11. The Secretary-General's proposal that he should periodically review progress in improvement of geographical distribution in the staffs of TAB, the Special Fund and UNICEF was welcome, but the Cambodian delegation did not think that voluntary contributions should be used as a criterion as that would preclude any possibility of ensuring a really equitable geographical distribution of such staffs.

12. Turning to the question of permanent contracts, he said that only rich countries could dispense permanently with the services of nationals who wished to make a career in the Secretariat; the developing and newly independent countries were unable to do so. On the other hand, fixed-term contracts provided an opportunity for the nationals of those countries to gain valuable experience before returning home. For that reason, it would be inadvisable to impose a ceiling on the percentage of fixed-term staff.

13. The Acting Secretary-General had considerably improved the geographical distribution of the staff in the few months that had elapsed since he had taken office; he should be given every latitude to complete the task he had so successfully begun. There should continue to be a single Secretary-General, as any other arrangement would merely disorganize the Secretariat and would certainly result in additional expenditure.

14. In conclusion, he endorsed all the Secretary-General's recommendations, as set out in paragraph 69 of his report, and the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.747).

15. Mr. HASRAT (Afghanistan) recalled that the Committee had been unable to adopt any draft resolution on the present item at the sixteenth session. It was clear from the three reports (A/5270, A/C.5/933 and Corr.1, and A/C.5/938) now before the Committee that in seeking to interpret the Committee's wishes, the Acting Secretary-General had greatly improved the geographical distribution of the staff of the Secretariat during the past year. The table in paragraph 8 of document A/5270 showed that the improvement had indeed been considerable. The Afghan delegation hoped that that trend would continue and be accentuated.

16. With regard to the formula to be adopted for geographical distribution, he recalled that his delegation had consistently held that a minimum of five posts should be allowed for the factor of membership and that it had been a sponsor of the thirteen-Power draft resolution<sup>3/</sup> introduced at the sixteenth session, in which that principle had been stated. It strongly maintained that position. It shared the views of the

<sup>2/</sup> *Ibid.*, agenda item 64, document A/5063, annexes I and II.

<sup>3/</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

Secretary-General regarding the relative importance of posts at various levels and it welcomed the statement in paragraph 58 of his report (A/5270).

17. His delegation attached great importance to the allocation of posts between Member States on the basis of the principles laid down in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter which were not conflicting, and it favoured the extension of the principle of geographical distribution to all international staff, including those employed under the voluntary programmes. The situation with regard to the geographical distribution of the General Service staff, in which sixty-three nationalities were represented, was fairly satisfactory, as revealed by the figures contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/5270), although his delegation still considered that the G-5 category should be brought within the scope of geographical distribution. He welcomed the increase in the proportion of fixed-term contracts to 25.4 per cent, which had enabled the Acting Secretary-General greatly to reduce the imbalance in the geographical distribution of staff.

18. He expressed the hope that the Fifth Committee would reach a unanimous decision which would help the Secretary-General in his efforts to secure a further improvement in the situation. In conclusion, he supported the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.747) and the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.5/L.749 and Corr.1).

19. Mr. SANU (Nigeria) said that his delegation, which considered it essential for the new Members of the United Nations to be represented not only in the lower echelons of the Secretariat but also at the policy-making level, paid a tribute to the Secretary-General's efforts to promote recruitment from under-represented areas. Further adjustments at the higher levels were, however, still necessary.

20. He was glad to note the Secretary-General's acceptance of the principle that men of competence and integrity could be found all over the world, a principle enunciated in the second preambular paragraph of the joint draft resolution on geographical distribution<sup>2/</sup> submitted by his delegation and twelve others at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. His delegation would appraise the proposals on geographical distribution made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 69 of his report (A/5270) on the basis of the principles and factors enumerated in operative paragraph 3 of that draft resolution.

21. Since the strength of the United Nations lay in acceptance of the provision of Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Charter that the Organization was based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members, the Nigerian delegation felt that the weight to be given to the membership factor should be more precisely defined than in the Secretary-General's present proposals. No Member State should be regarded as over-represented if it had no more than five nationals in the United Nations Secretariat.

22. While the formula for equitable distribution of Professional posts suggested by the Secretary-General in paragraph 69 (b) of his report should be given a trial, he felt that more weight should progressively be given to the population factor as compared with the contribution factor.

23. The relative importance of types of posts in the Secretariat could not be overemphasized. In that

connexion, he thought that the basic factors taken into account for the purposes of recruitment had thus far militated against Africans from countries south of the Sahara. There were only 12 Africans from those countries in P-4 posts—5 of them South Africans—and only 5 in P-5 posts—3 of them South Africans. Without wishing to suggest any lowering of recruitment standards, his delegation thought, in particular, that African candidates who were qualified in all other respects should not be debarred on the ground of age from employment in higher posts. As matters now stood, an African candidate who had risen to the highest post in his national civil service was considered suitable for appointment only to a P-2 or a P-3 post in the Secretariat. It should also be borne in mind that, as the Ethiopian representative had pointed out, geographical distribution would be meaningless if the senior posts did not carry adequate responsibility. No country would be willing to release its nationals for service in the Secretariat if they were to act merely as ornaments.

24. With reference to posts at the D-2 level and above, he welcomed the assurance given by the Secretary-General in paragraph 69 (f) of document A/5270 that, particularly in the higher levels of the Secretariat, he would do everything practicable to ensure a broad and equitable geographical distribution of posts. It seemed to him, however, that the existing imbalance could not be corrected as long as emphasis was placed on the maintenance of the *status quo*. In that connexion, he would draw the Secretary-General's attention to the report on the organization of the Secretariat at the senior level submitted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its twelfth session.<sup>4/</sup> The United Nations would be guilty of a breach of trust if it were to take any action likely to jeopardize the hopes of career staff who had given it faithful service. At the same time, he felt that the Secretary-General should do his utmost to redress the existing imbalance by appointing nationals of countries which were under-represented at the D-2 level and above to any vacancies which arose as a result of the expiry of contracts or of death or retirement. The Secretary-General must draw up definite plans for immediate action in that respect.

25. The Nigerian delegation felt that the voluntary programmes would benefit from the recruitment of nationals from all countries, particularly from the developing countries sharing the economic and social problems which those programmes were helping to solve. In the light of the statement by the Secretary-General in paragraph 39 of document A/5270 that he proposed to report annually to the General Assembly on the progress in further improving the geographical distribution of the staffs of the voluntary agencies vis-à-vis the criterion of contribution, he felt that it was only fair to give the Secretary-General time to work out a fair solution to the problem.

26. With reference to the question of fixed-term appointments, he noted from paragraph 65 of document A/5270 that the percentage of staff in such posts had risen to 25.4 and had thus been brought into line with the recommendation made in operative paragraph 3 (e) of the thirteen-Power draft resolution submitted at the sixteenth session.<sup>3/</sup> His dele-

<sup>4/</sup> *Ibid.*, Twelfth Session, Annexes, agenda item 41, document A/3762.

gation thought that it would not be very helpful to set a definite target for such posts at the present time and that the matter should be left to the discretion of the Secretary-General. It was certainly in the best interests of the African countries, at least for the time being, not to be too dogmatic on the question of the percentage of fixed-term appointments. The task of nation-building made it difficult for the developing countries to release competent and experienced staff for a permanent career in the Secretariat. Furthermore, such a career did not now attract their gifted nationals in view of the opportunities at home, although, with the development of higher education in many parts of Africa, that state of affairs would not last for ever.

27. He would like to assure the United States representative that, in preparing their text, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.747 had been anxious to avoid an acrimonious debate such as had taken place in the Committee at the sixteenth session. It was impossible to work out a comprehensive draft resolution which would please every delegation. On the other hand, if the present text was compared with the thirteen-Power draft resolution submitted at the sixteenth session, it would be seen that the sponsors had gone out of their way to produce a compromise proposal which they hoped would be acceptable to the great majority of the Committee.

28. He did not think that it would be wise to follow the suggestion of the United States and Austrian representatives that the text should reiterate the Secretary-General's recommendation that the General Service staff at all levels should be excluded from the scope of geographical distribution. His delegation accepted the Secretary-General's statement that he would attempt to recruit all international staff, including General Service staff, in harmony with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. He agreed with the Secretary-General that geographical distribution could not be reduced to a mathematical formula and that much would in fact depend on the manner in which the Secretary-General interpreted the General Assembly resolution on the subject.

29. While he was in sympathy with the point of view expressed in the draft resolution of Czechoslovakia (A/C.5/L.749 and Corr.1), he would reserve his comments until a later stage.

30. In conclusion, he wished to endorse the tribute paid by previous speakers to the Secretariat staff and to express his conviction that they would continue to perform the tasks entrusted to them with singleness of purpose and in the spirit of Article 100 of the Charter.

31. Mr. GANEM (France) thanked the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.747 for their sincere and, on the whole, satisfactory efforts to produce a compromise text designed to extricate the Committee from the deadlock reached at the sixteenth session. In point of fact the debate at that session had not proved totally barren since it had led to the submission by the Secretary-General of the report (A/5270) on which the draft resolution was largely based. In that connexion, he felt that since that proposal included a reference to paragraph 69 (b) of that report, it should also include a reference to paragraph 25 which contained an analysis of the population factor. If that factor was not clearly defined,

the danger of a return to the extreme positions adopted at the sixteenth session might persist.

32. The reliance which the sponsors had placed on the report was justified in view of the steps which the Acting Secretary-General had taken within less than a year of assuming office. The progress achieved was in fact greater than appeared from the figures. He therefore endorsed the appreciation expressed in the third preambular paragraph of the text and felt that the first of the Ukrainian amendments (A/C.5/L.751) proposing the deletion of that paragraph was unjustified.

33. Where posts at the senior level were concerned, the United Nations for the first time had two Under-Secretaries from African countries south of the Sahara, one from Nigeria and the other from Ghana. That did not mean that the claims of African countries could be regarded as fully satisfied. Consideration would at some stage have to be given to the rights of countries in other areas of Africa.

34. He could not endorse the complaints of the East European countries that they were represented by only one official at the Under-Secretary level. If it was remembered that, despite political divergencies between Belgrade and Moscow or Kiev, Yugoslavia was geographically and historically part of Eastern Europe, it would be seen that following the appointment of another national of an East European State to an Under-Secretary post at Headquarters, that region was now represented by four Under-Secretaries.

35. The Iraqi representative had twice complained of the small proportion of senior staff recruited from the countries of the Middle East. He would point out that the Secretary-General had appointed an Under-Secretary from the United Arab Republic and had entrusted him with most important functions in the field of disarmament. He wondered whether, in view of his origins, culture and religion, the Under-Secretary concerned could not be said to "represent" not only North Africa but also many countries of the Middle East.

36. In appointing the new Commissioner of Industrial Development, the Acting Secretary-General's choice had fallen on a Venezuelan because of his dynamic personality and qualifications, despite the fact that nationals of Latin American countries already held two posts at the Under-Secretary level, one of them in the Economic Commission for Latin America.

37. In his opinion, all the appointments made by the Acting Secretary-General at the Under-Secretary level were very reassuring and showed that he could be fully trusted. He was certain that when political developments made the establishment of an Economic Commission for the Middle East possible, it would be headed by a national of a Middle Eastern country. It was for that reason that France supported draft resolution A/C.5/L.747 which gave the Secretary-General the freedom of action he needed.

38. He suggested that, instead of merely referring to General Assembly resolution 153 (II), the first preambular paragraph might quote the crucial passage in the third preambular paragraph of that resolution, stating that the Secretariat would profit to the highest degree from the assets of the various cultures and the technical competence of all Member nations, since

that passage explained why the idea of geographical distribution has been included in the Charter. Alternatively, that passage might be quoted in the Committee's report to the General Assembly on the item under consideration.

39. In past years the French delegation had consistently advocated an increase in the proportion of fixed-term appointments. While its position remained the same, it hesitated to oppose the Secretary-General's view that it would be unwise to exceed the proportion of 25 per cent in the immediate future. While that percentage did not represent a ceiling, his delegation could not subscribe to the recommendation in the draft resolution proposed by Czechoslovakia (A/C.5/L.749 and Corr.1) that it should be increased. He was certain that the Secretary-General would go beyond the present percentage of fixed-term appointments, if he thought that necessary.

40. It was in the vital interest of the United Nations that there should be a sufficiently large number of career staff to maintain the international character of the Secretariat and that the abolition of a large number of career posts was bound to affect staff morale. At the same time, he felt that it would be useful to draw the Secretary-General's attention to the need for an actual five-year review of permanent contracts, as suggested in the Czechoslovak text, so as to ensure that the staff retained its usefulness to the Organization. He therefore proposed that the Rapporteur should at least be asked to include the useful points made in the Czechoslovak draft resolution in the Committee's report.

41. Mr. KITTANI (Iraq), replying to the point raised by the French representative concerning the representation of the Middle East at the senior level of the Secretariat, pointed out that his earlier contention that that geographical area was not represented by a single staff member above the P-5 level had been based entirely on table 1 in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/933 and Corr.1). That table listed eleven countries which, in the view of the Acting Secretary-General, constituted the geographical region known as the Middle East. The Under-Secretary to whom the French representative had referred was a national of a country specifically excluded from that list.

42. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) said that as a sponsor of the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.747), his delegation generally endorsed the Acting Secretary-General's proposals (A/5270, para. 69). While it considered that there was still room for improvement in the geographical distribution of the staff, those proposals, if implemented, would accelerate the pace at which existing imbalances could be corrected. In particular, the Brazilian delegation agreed that the contributions factor could not be the sole or overriding consideration in achieving the equitable geographical distribution of Secretariat posts; if rigidly applied, it would undermine the democratic nature of the United Nations. On the other hand, it was logical to attribute a minimum of 1-5 posts to each Member State on the basis of membership alone. Brazil also favoured the introduction of population as a factor in attaining the goals of geographical distribution and would have preferred that it should be given more weight than it had received in the Secretary-General's proposals. However, he was prepared to accept the proposal in paragraph 69 (b) of the Secretary-General's report in a spirit of

compromise, provided that the relative emphasis on each factor was subject to periodic review. Brazil further agreed that geographical distribution should be extended to the voluntary programmes: a rigid formula should not, however, be imposed on them. Finally, his delegation considered that General Service staff at all levels should be excluded from the scope of geographical distribution, but should continue to be subject to the principle of recruitment on as wide a geographical basis as possible. In view of the financial and technical difficulties involved, it was still inadvisable to include posts at the G-5 level among those to which the principle of equitable geographical distribution was applied.

43. The greater part of the Secretariat staff should continue to be recruited on a career basis in order to ensure its efficiency, independence and international character. The Secretariat had proved its ability, integrity and independence both at Headquarters and in the field, and the Assembly should be careful to ensure that its morale and efficiency were not adversely affected by changes in its structure or by budgetary reductions. Career appointments were more in keeping with the ideals of the United Nations. For those reasons, Brazil believed that, so far as was practicable, the ratio of fixed-term to permanent appointments should be stabilized at 25 per cent. Indeed, as the Secretary-General himself pointed out, the number of career staff from certain regional groups should be increased in order further to improve geographical distribution and to reduce the large turnover of staff. It could not, therefore, support the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.5/L.749 and Corr.1).

44. The main purpose of the joint draft resolution was to provide the Secretary-General with guidance on the policies to be applied for the purpose of achieving a better geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat. The Secretary-General should continue to enjoy sufficient freedom of action to apply those policies without detriment to administrative efficiency, and the goal of equitable geographical distribution should be attained without impairing the competence and integrity of the staff. The fact that the joint draft resolution did not cover all the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report (A/5270, para. 69) did not imply that the sponsors took a negative approach to any part of that report. They had merely sought to emphasize those proposals which constituted an acceptable basis for general agreement. They considered that the Secretary-General's report reflected substantial progress in the right direction. He therefore appealed to the Ukrainian representative to reconsider his amendments (A/C.5/L.751). He would comment on the United States amendments (A/C.5/L.754) at a later stage.

45. Mr. ALLOTT (United States of America) accepted the assurances given by the Brazilian representative that the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/C.5/L.747) were not adopting a negative approach to any part of the Secretary-General's report (A/5270). The purpose of the United States amendments (A/C.5/L.754) was to define more clearly the policy to be followed by the Secretary-General in applying the population factor to the distribution of Professional posts in the Secretariat proper, and to rephrase the recommendation concerning career appointments in operative paragraph 1 (e) of the joint

draft resolution in the form of advice to the Secretary-General rather than as a directive. The recommendation, as amended by the United States, would reflect the general agreement in the Committee that the career service should be maintained and that under-representation should be reduced, provided that the competence and integrity of the staff did not suffer. The United States would be prepared to vote in favour of the joint draft resolution if its amendments were accepted by the sponsors.

46. Mr. EDWARDSSEN (Norway) said that he was glad to support the joint draft resolution because it represented a moderate attempt to reach a compromise on a problem which might otherwise have proved

difficult to resolve. It should prove satisfactory to the Secretary-General, particularly since it implicitly endorsed those parts of his report (A/5270) which it did not specifically mention. Although Norway would have preferred the text to be amended to bring it more closely into line with what the Secretary-General had actually said, it would nevertheless vote for it. Since it was a compromise proposal, he appealed to the Committee to make as few substantive changes as possible in the text. As it stood, the draft resolution represented a modus vivendi which should be satisfactory to most Member States.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.