

the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The main task of the new committee will be to draw up an annual schedule of conferences and meetings compatible with the resources at the disposal of the Secretary-General for the servicing of meetings and conferences.

Personnel Questions—Composition of the Secretariat

While most countries agreed that the Secretary-General had been making reasonable progress towards the goal of equitable geographical distribution of Secretariat posts among all member states, a number of developing and East European countries argued that this goal would not be attained unless their nationals could be made available to the United Nations on fixed-term rather than permanent contracts. The Secretary-General continued to maintain that the proportion of fixed-term contracts should be restricted to 25 per cent since “the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity” (mentioned in Article 101(3) of the UN Charter) in the international civil service could best be achieved by a career service with a high proportion of permanent contracts. Recognizing the difficulties of many developing countries in providing skilled nationals for long periods, the Assembly expressed the belief that “as a temporary measure . . . increased recruitment on the basis of fixed-term contracts, especially in the case of developing countries, might help to achieve a balanced geographical distribution” and, accordingly, invited the Secretary-General “to give preference to candidates from inadequately represented countries”. At the same time, the Assembly recognized “the need for a large proportion of permanent contracts and fixed-term contracts of longer duration”.

In a separate resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General “to study the methods which should be used to ensure a more equitable use of the working languages (English, French and Spanish) of the organization and a better balance among those languages in the recruitment of staff at all levels . . .”. This resolution was prompted by the possibility that lack of facility in English had been hindering the recruitment of French-speaking Africans.

Other Items

The Fifth Committee also, *inter alia*, approved the UN financial reports and accounts for 1965 and the supplementary budget estimates for 1966; held elections to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary financial bodies; considered and approved the report of the UN Committee on Contributions