

departures approved by the Committee are significant. Fortunately, by the time the report was approved no additional appropriations were required. Financial data are shown in Appendix VI of the Committee's report, on pages 125 and 126. The analysis and determination of the financial implications of a departure have been a source of some difficulty and confusion. To permit assessment of the financial impact, the Secretariat will have to provide in the future a standard breakdown of costs involved in Committee decisions. The elements of the cost can then be considered with greater care. The question of savings due to cancelled or postponed meetings has not yet been studied. Experience for different users such as ACABQ is not necessarily suitable for the purposes of the Committee on Conferences. Moreover it is important to scrutinize not only conference servicing costs or savings, but also all other costs as well as savings resulting from a departure. The costing issues should be further studied with a view to finding a procedure that yields fully acceptable results.

### Calendar of Conferences

The consideration of the Calendar of Conferences for 1978-79 has raised once again the question of the venue of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Outer Space Committee. In this context the financial information provided, however accurate, was such that in the view of my delegation, conclusions derived therefrom are misleading. The differences of view between the Committee on Conferences and the Outer Space Committee were perhaps in part due to the kind of financial information provided as a basis for decision making. The experience illustrates the ability of the Committee to shed light on complex conference issues. It is a major reason why my delegation would welcome a General Assembly provision along lines similar to those taken by ECOSOC this summer which ensures that advice by the Committee on Conferences is brought to bear upon decisions that involve changes in the pattern of conferences as approved by the General Assembly. Decisions taken from the vantage point of specialized subsidiary bodies have too frequently been found to be at odds with broader interests of member states, a situation which is not much in evidence in ECOSOC. The Conference Programme has now expanded to the point where a little more order would be appreciated by the membership and above all by the countries with limited participation capacity. In the rare cases where recommendations of the Committee on Conferences differ from those taken by other bodies, my delegation believes that approved principles, including the principle that bodies should meet at their established headquarters, should prevail unless and until a careful study justifies a change.

### Utilization and Apportionment of Conference Services

Under this heading, my delegation wishes to welcome the guidelines for reducing the number of cancellations and the experimental introduction of over-programming to limit the under-utilization of resources due to cancellations. The guidelines clearly establish responsibilities for keeping committees informed of matters relevant to the efficient and effective conduct of meetings and conferences. Authority to over-programme is another important proposal of the Committee particularly during 1978-79, when a part of the conference facilities in New York will not be available due to the reconstruction programme scheduled to commence next year. During this period experience can demonstrate the usefulness of the new practice.