

years. They commended the Secretary-General for the measures he had taken to increase efficiency and reduce expenses and urged that these efforts be intensified in order to offset the continuing rise in administrative and operating costs. A more critical position was taken by the USSR Delegation which argued that there was an urgent need to stabilize the budget and suggested that the 1960 estimates should be reduced by 10 to 15 per cent below actual expenditures in 1958.

Many delegations stressed the importance of developing and applying a sound system of priorities in examining the organization's programme and budget in order to ensure that available resources were used to maximum advantage. In this connection some speakers believed it would be extremely helpful to member states if the information provided by the Secretary-General in explanation of his estimates were expanded to indicate more clearly and concisely the cost of individual projects. The Secretary-General stated it was his intention to facilitate budget analysis by refining the form in which the estimates were presented and furnishing more detailed information on proposed expenditures.

A number of representatives, including the Canadian, also considered that, in the interests of maintaining a high level of administrative efficiency, it would be desirable to have another organizational review of the work of the Secretariat. The last such survey was conducted in 1954 and 1955. After extensive private consultations with other delegations and with the Secretariat, the Delegations of the United Arab Republic, United Kingdom and USSR introduced a resolution requesting the Secretary-General to appoint a committee of six experts on a geographical basis to work with him in reviewing the activities and organization of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General was also requested to submit a report of this Committee, together with his recommendations, to the fifteenth session of the Assembly. This resolution was adopted unanimously.

Among the many individual items considered during the budgetary examination was the programme of operational and executive personnel which was initiated on an experimental basis in 1959. The programme is designed to assist governments in securing qualified persons to perform duties of an executive or operational character. The Assembly provided \$200,000 for it in its first year of operation. At the fourteenth session the Secretary-General argued that if "adequate scope" were to be given to this experimental programme the allotment of funds for 1960 should be increased to \$300,000. The Advisory Committee, stressing that the programme was still in the experimental stage, believed that an appropriation of \$250,000 would be reasonable. The Canadian Delegation shared this view. However, the Secretary-General's estimate of \$300,000 was approved by the Fifth Committee by 26 votes to 19 (including Canada) with 20 abstentions.

For the past two years the United Nations has been faced with a serious shortage of funds with which to meet its current obligations. Large arrears of contributions, tardy payment of current contributions, and the refusal or inability of some member states to meet their assessments to the United Nations Emergency Force have been largely responsible for this situation. At the thirteenth session the Assembly took measures to provide the organization with adequate funds in 1959 by increasing the Working Capital Fund by \$1.5 million and granting the Secretary-General power to borrow from special accounts and funds in his custody.

At the fourteenth session the Secretary-General again reported that the cash position was critical and said it was a matter of urgency that the Assembly take action to keep the Organization solvent in 1960. As a solution to this problem the Assembly adopted by a large majority a resolution which urged member states to pay their outstanding arrears, requested