

mended by any committee for the approval of the General Assembly. The views expressed by the Canadian delegation on this subject were supported by the majority of Members of the United Nations and the substance of the Canadian amendment is incorporated in the new rule of procedure.

Because of its budgetary implications, the Fifth Committee examined the programme that was submitted by the Economic and Social Council for the meetings of its various commissions and sub-commissions. A determined effort was made by several delegations, in particular those of the United Kingdom and Soviet Russia, to secure agreement to a reduction in the number of meetings of these commissions for reasons of economy. The Canadian delegation took the view that the Fifth Committee should not, in its eagerness to effect reductions in the budget, limit the meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies without close examination of the necessity and desirability of such reductions. In the absence of strong evidence to the contrary, the Canadian delegation was prepared to accept the proposals of the Economic and Social Council. In this, Canada was supported by the United States, Australia, and other delegations. Although most of the proposed reductions in meetings of the commissions of the Economic and Social Council were rejected it was agreed that the meetings of the Social Commission and the Transport and Communications Commission should be reduced from two to one in 1948.

In voting on the 1948 budget, ten members abstained. These included the U.S.S.R. and other eastern European delegations whose main objection stemmed from the inclusion of items for the establishment of an Interim Committee, of a Temporary Commission on Korea and of a Special Committee on the Greek Question. These delegations contended that these bodies were either unnecessary or contrary to the Charter and accordingly registered their disapproval by abstaining from voting on the whole budget.