

of these is the containment of the steady increase in United Nations conferences, meetings and documentation, a problem which was raised by the Ad Hoc Committee in Chapter 9 of its second report. With regard to documentation, while we recognize that there will be no quick solution to this question, we, nonetheless, look forward to considering the report of the Secretary-General (A/6675) on the publications and documentation of the United Nations. We hope that this report and the recommendations of the Publications Board contained in it will be a first step toward the elimination of unnecessary and out-moded publications.

The volume of documentation is, of course, closely related to the number and length of United Nations conferences and meetings. Control over documentation is, therefore, contingent on controlling the expansion of United Nations conferences and meetings. We look forward, therefore, at this session to learning the recommendations of the new Committee on Conferences on the proposed conference programme for 1968. We consider that this new Committee should be able to make useful recommendations on the conference programme although we recognize that it will not be able to perform miracles. In the end, it is up to member governments as a whole to tackle this problem in as determined a manner as possible and to make every effort to bring the proliferation of conferences and meetings under control. The Secretary-General stated in paragraph 19 of his foreward to the budget estimates, that regardless of the criteria applied in defining a special conference of major proportions, some seven such conferences are scheduled for 1968 as compared to five in 1967. This being the case, the principle approved in Resolution 2116 at the 20th General Assembly, that no more than one special major conference be held annually, would appear to be incapable of realization. We would hope, however, that the Committee on Conferences, apart from its major task of considering the conference programme for 1968, might still give consideration to the concept "major special conference." We appreciate that this term is vague and that it might not be possible for the Committee to define the concept precisely. We would hope, however, that the Committee would consider the term and that it might make recommendations as to the criteria which should be used by the Assembly in trying to control the number of conferences of a major and special nature which might be held in any given year.

We also look forward at this session to receiving the Secretary-General's study of the possibility of biennial budgeting for the United Nations regular budget, a report which the Ad Hoc Committee called for in paragraph 56 of its second report. We are interested in knowing the results of this study because we feel that there is merit in the