

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Secretary-General proposes to have two under-secretaries without portfolio in the top level of the Secretariat. We would venture the suggestion that in practice these officials might coordinate to some extent the activities of the other officials in the top rank of the Organization and thus relieve the Secretary-General of the necessity of too frequent exercise of his own coordinating functions in the administrative fields. We share to some extent the misgivings that have been expressed about increasing the Secretary-General's administrative responsibilities.

We agree with the Secretary-General's view that the reduction of staff which is contemplated in the reorganization plan should be accomplished in the main through the normal turnover of staff; and in the light of the Secretary-General's statement yesterday that the 1956 Budget will to all intents and purposes reflect the target manning tables that have been established we would consider that rate of reorganization to be satisfactory.

My delegation may have other comments and questions on the reorganization proposals when the Committee examines them in detail, but we would not like to let this opportunity go by without expressing our whole-hearted congratulations to the Secretary-General on his Report on the Organization of the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General has stated, quite properly in our view, that the primary aim of the reorganization should be efficiency and that budget savings would emerge as a by-product. Very substantial savings have already emerged. As is demonstrated in document A/C.5/577, expenditures for 1954 are expected to be approximately one million dollars below the appropriations. The Secretary-General undertook last year to try to accomplish a saving of this amount and he deserves the gratitude of member states on achieving it.

I should like to mention in passing that this document, A/C.5/577, which shows 1954 Budget expenditures to 31 August, 1954 and anticipated total requirements for 1954, is a most useful aid to a proper study of the budgetary situation. My delegation made a particular point of suggesting at the eighth session of the General Assembly that such a document be prepared and we are very grateful to the Secretariat for the trouble taken to make it available to members of delegations in advance of the Budget debate.

The Budget Estimates for 1955 show a substantial decrease in staff costs, from the level of 1954, of the order of \$900,000, and we note that the Secretary-General expects the estimates for 1956 and 1957 to provide for further reductions under this heading, the eventual gross saving being estimated at \$2,000,000. If this expectation is realized, an important part of the Budget will, we hope, be stabilized. And if this stabilization of staff costs is accompanied by a net increase in the efficiency of the Secretariat, as we are assured it will be, a most important contribution to the health of the Organization will have been made.