

total includes several new items added during the Second Session, the actual reductions made were substantially in excess of this figure.

The Canadian delegation played an active role in the Fifth Committee which dealt with all administrative and budgetary questions. In general, Canada held the view that the Secretary-General's budgetary proposals should not be reduced by an arbitrary sum but that individual items should be carefully examined to see whether economies could be made which would not adversely affect the operation of the United Nations. The Canadian representatives were instrumental in focussing attention on a number of estimates in the proposed budget which it was possible to reduce without impairing the essential functions of the organization.

The Canadian delegation was concerned with the problem of budgetary control in the United Nations, particularly with the tendency which had become apparent to take decisions in political and other fields involving considerable expenditure without adequate information as to the financial and budgetary implications of these decisions. The Canadian representative on the Fifth Committee stated in this connection that:

"Although the imposition of an arbitrary financial limitation on projected United Nations activities is undesirable, it is acknowledged by everyone that costs must be given full consideration in arriving at policy decisions. The financial implications of each resolution must be fully considered to ensure that the resources of the organization are being economically and wisely spent. It has become apparent during the past two years that the existing U.N. machinery and procedures have not been fully effective in achieving this objective. It is important, therefore, that at this session of the Assembly steps be taken to remedy this situation."

He therefore proposed that the rule of procedure, which was designed to ensure that there should be no lapse in the financial control of the General Assembly but which in practice had not been effective, should be amended in the sense that no resolution could be recommended by any committee for approval by the General Assembly unless such committee had itself obtained an estimate of expenditures from the Secretary-General. The Canadian delegation also recommended that the Secretary-General keep all committees informed of the detailed estimated cost of all resolutions recom-