

Having said this, I should emphasize that the Canadian Delegation knows of no panacea that will suddenly transform the United Nations into a model of efficiency. We are, however, encouraged by the number of cogent suggestions which has been proposed by the members of this Committee and it is our hope that the 20th Session will take action to ensure that these proposals will not be forgotten. We do not wish to return to the same pious hopes in the General Debate on the 1967 draft budget estimates at the 21st Session of the General Assembly and be forced to conclude that no progress has been made in the interim. It is for these reasons, Mr. Chairman, that my Delegation is looking forward with interest to the tabling of the resolution mentioned by the Foreign Minister of France in his address of September 29, and referred to on October 5 by M. Ganem in the Fifth Committee. It is clear that a comprehensive approach is required rather than the implementation of piecemeal measures and, thus, a preliminary study is essential. M. Couve de Murville proposed that the General Assembly should contemplate the appointment of a committee of a small number of competent financial experts to take a fresh look at the financial situation of the United Nations as a whole, including the specialized agencies. In the view of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Chairman, if such a working group is established, it should be given the widest possible terms of reference to study the multiplicity of problems, which has been highlighted so effectively in this Committee, and to recommend practical measures. It should avail itself of the impressive expertise of the members of the Secretariat and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, who have made us aware of the wide range of financial problems confronting the Organization and who have provided the lead in the search for new solutions.

The General Debate in the Fifth Committee has been valuable in that the financial ills of the Organization have been subjected to our collective scrutiny and, in the process, potential areas of remedy have been exposed. This exercise should provide the impetus for launching a comprehensive study in search of realistic solutions in the areas of our expressed concern: the need to reverse the ever-increasing proliferation of meetings and conferences (the solution of which problem may lie, as proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom, in the calculation of a monetary limit to express the Organization's conference and meeting capacity in any one year); the need for integration and coordination of financial procedures (or as stated by the representative of Israel, the desirability of maintaining a dialogue between the Fifth Committee and the other decision-making bodies of the Organization, to achieve which he made many concrete proposals); the need for priorities (and a reversal