

lutions which arose out of the report of the Trusteeship Council<sup>1</sup> and another which concerned offers from member states of study and training facilities for inhabitants of non-self-governing territories.

## Fifth Committee

### *Reassessment of Administrative and Budgetary Procedures*

In the Fifth Committee it was generally agreed that a clear distinction should be drawn between budgetary policy and the current financial crisis of the Organization in order that the work of the United Nations would not have to be curtailed while efforts continued to solve the financial problems connected with peace-keeping operations. At the same time, however, there was a consensus, crossing political lines, that the twentieth session was the appropriate time to initiate a reassessment of the administrative and budgetary procedures of the United Nations. The principal themes in the useful general debate on the 1966 budget estimates were: the need for a suitable form of budget presentation, a closer alignment of programmes and budget, the institution of a workable system of priorities, and a reduction in the proliferation of conferences, meetings and documentation.

With the general debate as prelude, the focal point of the work of the Fifth Committee was the almost unanimous approval of a resolution, introduced by France, establishing an *ad hoc* committee of 14 financial experts to examine the finances of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. In the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a complete statement of the financial situation of the United Nations, including the amount of expenditure committed for the different peace-keeping operations since their inception, and to transmit this statement to members of the *ad hoc* committee and to all member states by the end of the session. The committee was to provide its comments on the statement to member states by the end of March 1966. It was then requested, as the second phase of its work, to undertake a comprehensive review of the entire range of budgetary problems of the United Nations and to submit recommendations to the twenty-first session of the Assembly relating to "a better utilization of the funds available to the organizations, a rationalization of their activities and the evaluation of a reasonable and orderly expansion taking into account both the needs of member states and the costs they appear able to accept". Canada, which was later invited to be a member of the committee, welcomed the French initiative

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<sup>1</sup>See Page 70.