

The Canadian delegation is in full agreement with the Advisory Committee's comment, contained in paragraph 17 in the section dealing with "The Central Machinery for Co-ordination," that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, as a body which should play a more positive co-ordinating role, requires an active, full-time secretariat of a truly inter-agency character. We also welcome the decision, mentioned in paragraph 15, to have the Deputy Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs work full-time on inter-organization co-ordination. We hope that the expenses necessary for a full-time ACC Secretariat can be accommodated, to a considerable extent, by the reallocation of resources from the existing establishments of the various secretariats.

In commenting upon recent developments concerning the Special Committee on Co-ordination, which are summarized in paragraphs 18 to 20, we feel obliged to point out the obvious. While the new arrangements are good on paper, the effectiveness of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination will depend entirely on the diligence of the expert government representatives who will be required to digest a massive dose of documentation if they are to discharge the comprehensive mandate of the Committee to scrutinize both the United Nations work programme and inter-agency co-ordination. In short, committees can be created and modified but only governments can make them work. We consider that it is worth while to underline this patently evident truth in view of the increased burden which has been placed upon the enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to undertake a general review of the economic and social programmes and activities of the United Nations system. Generally speaking, there is still a great deal of groping to be done on how to effect and encourage co-ordination and, in particular, on how to present meaningful information without imposing an impossible burden on secretariats and delegations.

On the question of long-term multi-agency programmes, we fully agree with the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 26 that such efforts should be followed up by concerted ACC review. Conceivably, the multi-agency technique could, in some cases, prove irrelevant or mistaken.

In the section dealing with the "Form of Budget Presentation," we welcome the willingness of the Advisory Committee to undertake a study of the uniform presentation of budgets and would simply note that the emphasis in this area should ultimately be upon a comparable rather than strictly uniform presentation. We strongly endorse the Advisory Committee's comments on budget-building in paragraph 29 and comparability of budget factors in paragraphs 37 and 38. We also agree with the Advisory Committee's comment in paragraph 43 that the specialized agencies should keep their respective scales of assessments under review in order to reduce variations to a minimum. We, therefore, intend to vote in favour of