

extremely keen for limited resources. Therefore it might be worthwhile to repeat the procedure followed at the seventeenth session when the President of the Assembly sent a letter to the various committee chairmen concerning the need to follow procedures laid down in the financial rules and regulations, in particular Rule 154, which states in part, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures". This resulted in an improvement which we should seek to maintain in 1963.

I should like now to comment briefly on several specific questions. Previous speakers have already touched on the need to establish improved ^{and} financial/budgetary procedures to enable us to consider the Budget as a coordinated whole. In this regard my Delegation agrees with the Advisory Committee's comments in paragraph 51 of Document A/5507 that changes are long overdue in the ECOSOC programming cycle and hopes that it will be possible to devise procedures whereby this Committee can study the Budget for the forthcoming year in the knowledge that there will be no subsequent requests for additional funds. Equally important would be improvements in planning and budgetary procedures which would enable the Assembly to be confident that the work programme for the coming year has been carefully coordinated under a system of strict priorities.

With regard to planning, it is an odd commentary on our operations that many of the various units within the United Nations family should be advocating long-term planning in the fields of economic and social development, while the United Nations, and the General Assembly in particular, continues to rely almost exclusively on ad hoc solutions. The time has come when we should cast aside temporary expedients and develop long-term plans, including financing arrangements for peacekeeping operations. The Fifth Committee would seem to be a logical place to initiate such a new policy. It occurs to my Delegation that one area where a start might be made in this direction would be in connection with the Secretary-General's suggestion, in paragraphs 46 to 48 of Document A/5505 and repeated in his statement before this Committee for establishing a Building Improvements and Maintenance Fund.