

allow the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations to wither away for lack of funds. The organization's ability to undertake such operations is perhaps the greatest test of its value and efficacy and they will have the first priority on our support.

Governments and the people who under our system are the ultimate arbiters of what we do, will find it increasingly more difficult to support the voluntary programmes of aid under the United Nations in the face of the discouraging response of member states to their mandatory obligations for all-important and peace-keeping undertakings. Should this happen, the whole organization will be diminished in our eyes.

I repeat again, we are a technical body and our decisions must be taken in the light of our collective experience on the best methods and procedures for ensuring that the work of this organization is done smoothly. This Committee has, over the years, benefited from the advice of an excellent group of technical experts, the members of the Advisory Committee. We have only to look through our documentation to see that we are well served by them. In the few decisions we have already taken, all of us have paid the fullest attention to their advice and have accepted their recommendations as being wise and prudent. I wish to pay a particular tribute to the Advisory Committee at this time of change and crisis in the life of the organization and to express the hope that they will always be there to render their valuable expert opinions to assist us in our work.

I should like to turn now to some more specific points in the documents before us. In the foreword to the budget the Secretary-General observes that the initial budget estimates for 1962 have been compiled "with the twin objectives of securing on the one hand a level of expenditure for 1962 which is as close as possible to that approved for 1961, yet, on the other, making the necessary provision to meet the expanding work programmes required by decisions of the principal organs, the enlarged conference activity and other unavoidable cost increases". That the estimates have been prepared with great care is borne out by the modest scale of reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that in order to achieve the objective of producing a total close to that approved for 1961 the Secretary-General availed himself of a \$2 million decrease in the special provision for technical assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent states to offset a proposed increase in staff costs of approximately the same amount. The other major factor contributing to the apparent budget stabilization is the non-inclusion of certain items pending General Assembly direction to do otherwise; I refer, Mr. Chairman, to possible provisions for the proposed increase in professional salaries, and the possible requirements for capital expenditures at headquarters and Geneva, and for the contemplated conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less-Developed Areas. With these possible additions and supplementary items reported after the main budget document (A/4470) had been released, arising from decisions taken by ECOSOC, the final overall 1962 regular budget gross total may exceed \$80 million, and this, Mr. Chairman, is exclusive of the financial requirements of UNEF and ONUC. I realize these facts are, no doubt, well appreciated by all distinguished representatives but I wished simply to set them our against the background of the organization's continuing precarious financial position, which Mr. Turner, the Controller, described in his statement last Thursday.