

considerably mitigated if the Committee were to meet early in 1968 to begin its examination of the 1969 and 1970 meeting and conference programmes. The Committee would then be in a position to propose changes in the programmes before the schedule of meetings and conferences for those years had solidified. We, therefore, welcome the request contained in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution proposed by the Committee on Conferences that it meet as early as possible during the first quarter of 1968 to begin examination of the schedule of meetings and conferences of the United Nations for 1969 and to examine the schedule for 1970. I would, however, like to emphasize again what I said in my statement during the general budget debate, namely, that in the end it is up to member Governments as a whole, not the Committee on Conferences, to resolve this problem of proliferation of conferences and meetings. To use the words of the Committee on Conferences in paragraph 10 of its report: "discipline and occasional self-denial" are necessary on the part of all member states if the schedule of meetings and conferences is to be kept within manageable proportions.

Mr. Chairman, while we are disappointed with regard to the accomplishments of the Committee in its consideration of the 1968 conference programme, we, nonetheless, believe that the Committee has approached its task correctly by concentrating this year primarily on acquainting itself with the dimensions of the problem confronting it and on formulating general principles upon which an orderly calendar of conferences and meetings could be established in future years. As a consequence of this approach, the Committee's report contains, particularly in paragraphs 20 to 25, a number of useful recommendations which if applied by the Committee in