The Canadian Delegation, Mr. Chairman, has always been amongst those who stressed the importance of stabilizing, as far as possible, the budget of the United Nations. We are fully aware that this is a dynamic Organization, that it is a living and growing thing in a changing world and that absolute stabilization is neither desirable nor possible. Nevertheless, there are limits to the activities that the Organization can usefully undertake and there are limits to the resources that member states can place at its disposal. To keep within those limits it is essential that the principle of stabilization of expenditures be kept constantly in mind.

In the budget estimates for 1955 there is reflected a large measure of stabilization. My delegation is pleased to note the Secretary-General's statement that his purpose has been to achieve stabilization in all items of expenditure other than staff costs and congratulates him on the degree of success he has attained. We hope he will continue his efforts in this direction. In the over-all budget, including staff costs, the Secretary-General has of course gone beyond stabilization at the existing level and has effected a net decrease in expenditure of the order of $1,000,000.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommends reductions in the appropriations proposed by the Secretary-General totalling $420,000. I do not intend to discuss these recommendations in detail at this time, but I would like to explain the basic approach of my delegation to the Advisory Committee's proposals. Every year the Advisory Committee reviews the budget estimates in detail, to a degree that is not practicable in this committee. We believe experience has shown that it carries out this task with diligence and objectivity and we are convinced that its conclusions should not be lightly set aside. Although we may have some comments, at a later stage, on particular items in the budget, my delegation will support, in general, the Advisory Committee's recommendations.