

pleased to note in the report of the Committee of Experts which reviewed the activities and organization of the Secretariat, the proposal that the Fifth Committee might systematically each year examine in detail one or two main areas of expenditure. It is our firm hope that such reviews would be occasions for re-examining the conditions and assumptions under which programmes have been developed and expanded. In this way it will be possible to ensure that scarce resources are being properly and effectively utilized.

My Delegation was interested to note, and fully endorses, the Advisory Committee's remarks concerning the desirability of prolonging the use of furniture and office equipment and the pressing need to keep the general pattern of meetings within manageable bounds. The serious staffing problems created by the holding of numerous and lengthy conferences is rightly a matter of concern for all.

The Advisory Committee, after careful review of the Secretary General's initial estimates, has recommended reductions totalling approximately \$1 million and the Controller has informed us he does not intend to contest any of the proposed reductions. My Delegation considers the recommendations are reasonable and intends to support them.

The rise in the budget of the U.N. over the last few years is a sign that this growing organization is being asked to undertake an increasing number of tasks in ever widening fields of responsibility: this is a sign of its vitality. Because of this expansion it is our duty to scrutinize most carefully each new programme and new expenditure to ensure that the growing calls on the resources - which are not limitless - of all nations, are wisely conceived. At the same time we must express satisfaction that the instrument forged by the framers of the Charter has become so essential a part of the fabric of international life and activity.