

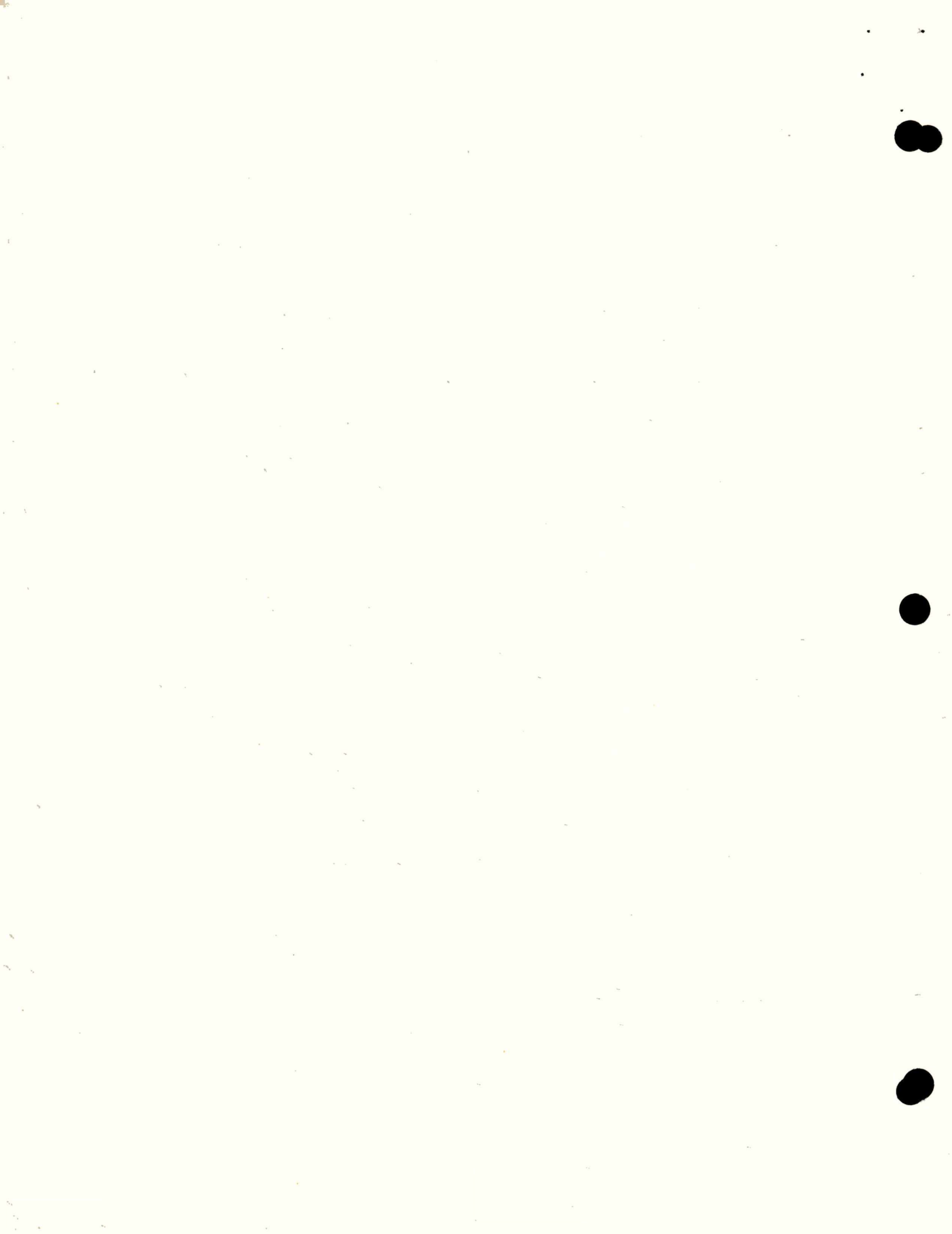


DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE CANADIAN
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, MR. LLOYD
FRANCIS, ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COORDINATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (ITEM 79)
DECEMBER 7, 1967.

Mr. Chairman,

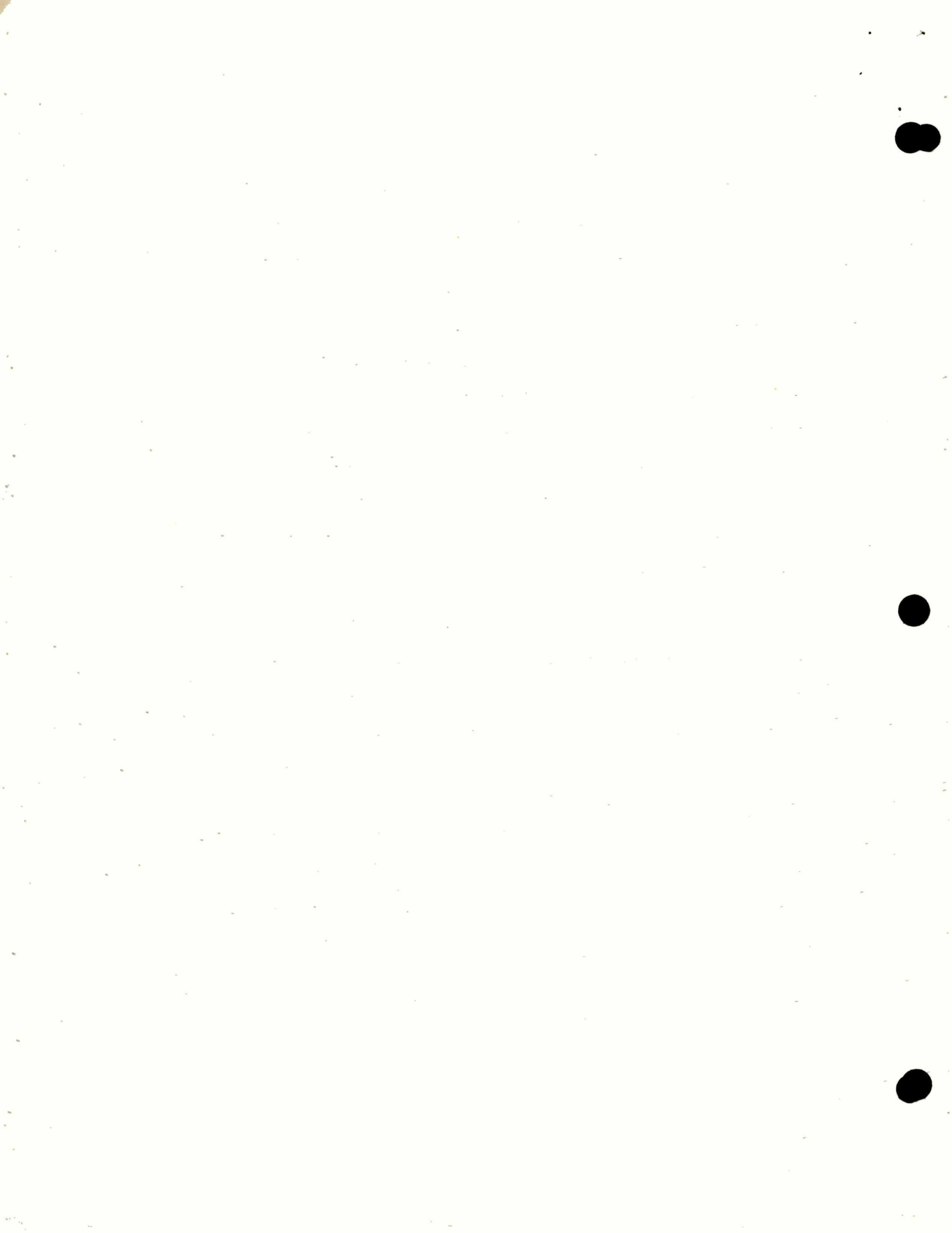
My delegation commends the separation of the report on Administrative and Budgetary Co-ordination into two sections. We feel it is desirable to receive early in the session a separate section on General Co-ordination questions which, in addition to being discussed in the Fifth Committee, can be studied by member governments and considered by the Executive Heads of the Agencies to whom it is of no less importance. Unfortunately, circumstances this year were such that the report on general co-ordination matters was not available early enough in the Session to allow member states sufficient time to give it the intensive consideration it deserves. As in past years the significant question of co-ordination will^{not} be studied in the depth we would have wished in the Fifth Committee. While appreciating fully the heavy workload of the ACABQ and the strains on the organization's documentation facilities, we hope that in future years the section on co-ordination will be available at an earlier date so that it may be given the attention it deserves.

In discussing the central machinery for co-ordination, the Advisory Committee notes the conclusion of the ACC that the ACC could strengthen its machinery by drawing on the staff resources not only of the United Nations but also of the Specialized Agencies and the International



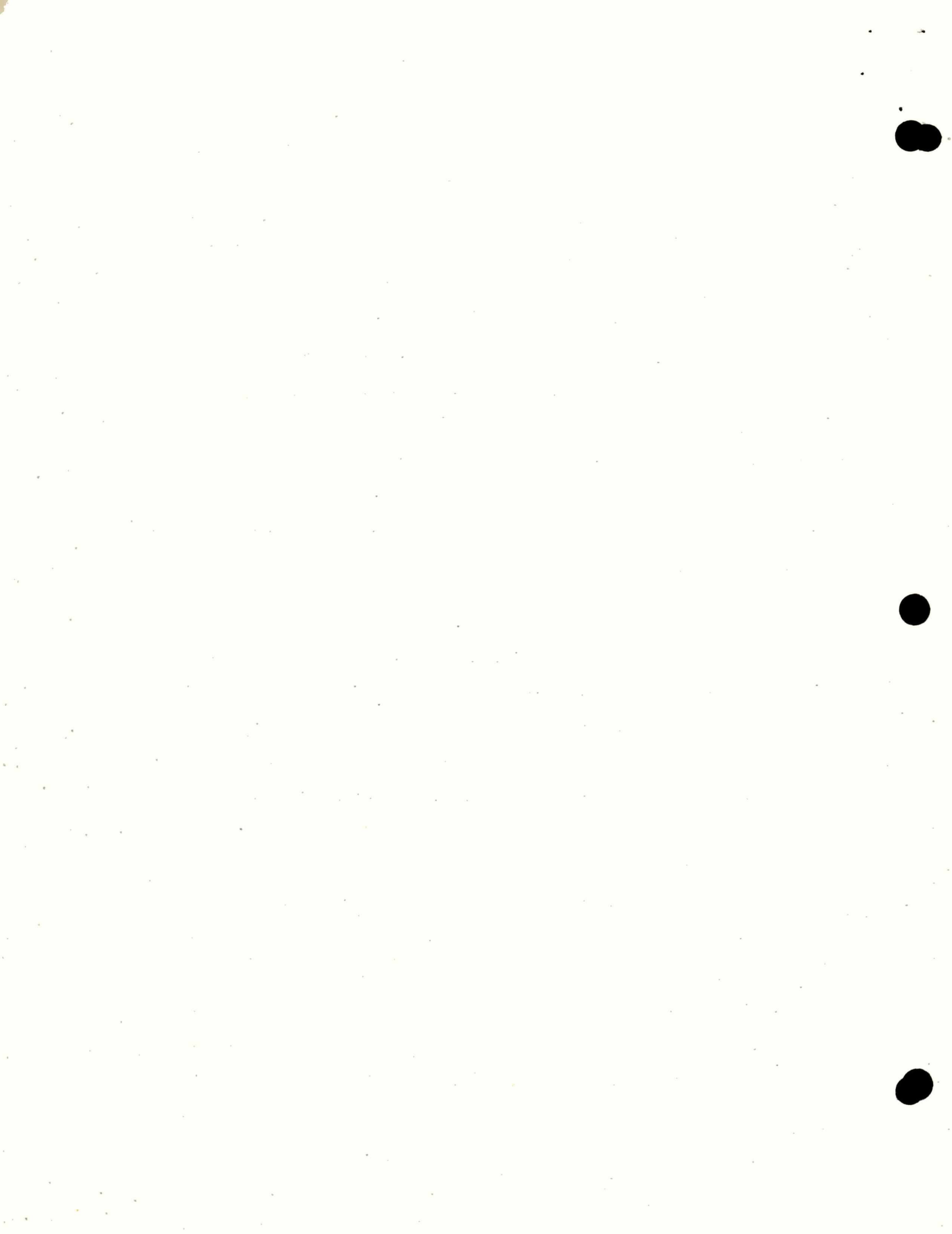
Atomic Energy Agency. Our delegation is interested, in accordance with resolution 1174 of the 41st ECOSOC, in seeing progress made in seconding to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, personnel from the Secretariats of the Specialized Agencies. We, therefore, share the Advisory Committee's desire that this be done expeditiously. We are convinced that the United Nations system is rapidly progressing to a stage at which a large number of questions will require inter-agency programming and implementation and not just inter-agency consultation. Thus, the ACC, in one or another of its component parts, will have to carry a heavier workload than at present and to be in virtually continuous session.

On the subject of co-ordination at the country level, the Canadian Government shares the view of many states that the UNDP Resident Representative has an important role to play in improving co-ordination of multilateral technical co-operation programmes. Furthermore we feel that he has an even more significant role which follows quite naturally from his interest in both the overall requirements of his country of assignment and the wide variety of development assistance available to that country from varied sources. This role is to relate the resources which are made available from the various bilateral and multilateral sources to the priority needs adopted by the country and to give advice to the responsible government officials on the application of this assistance in the most effective manner. In this role, he must act as an official and unofficial agent for many diverse development



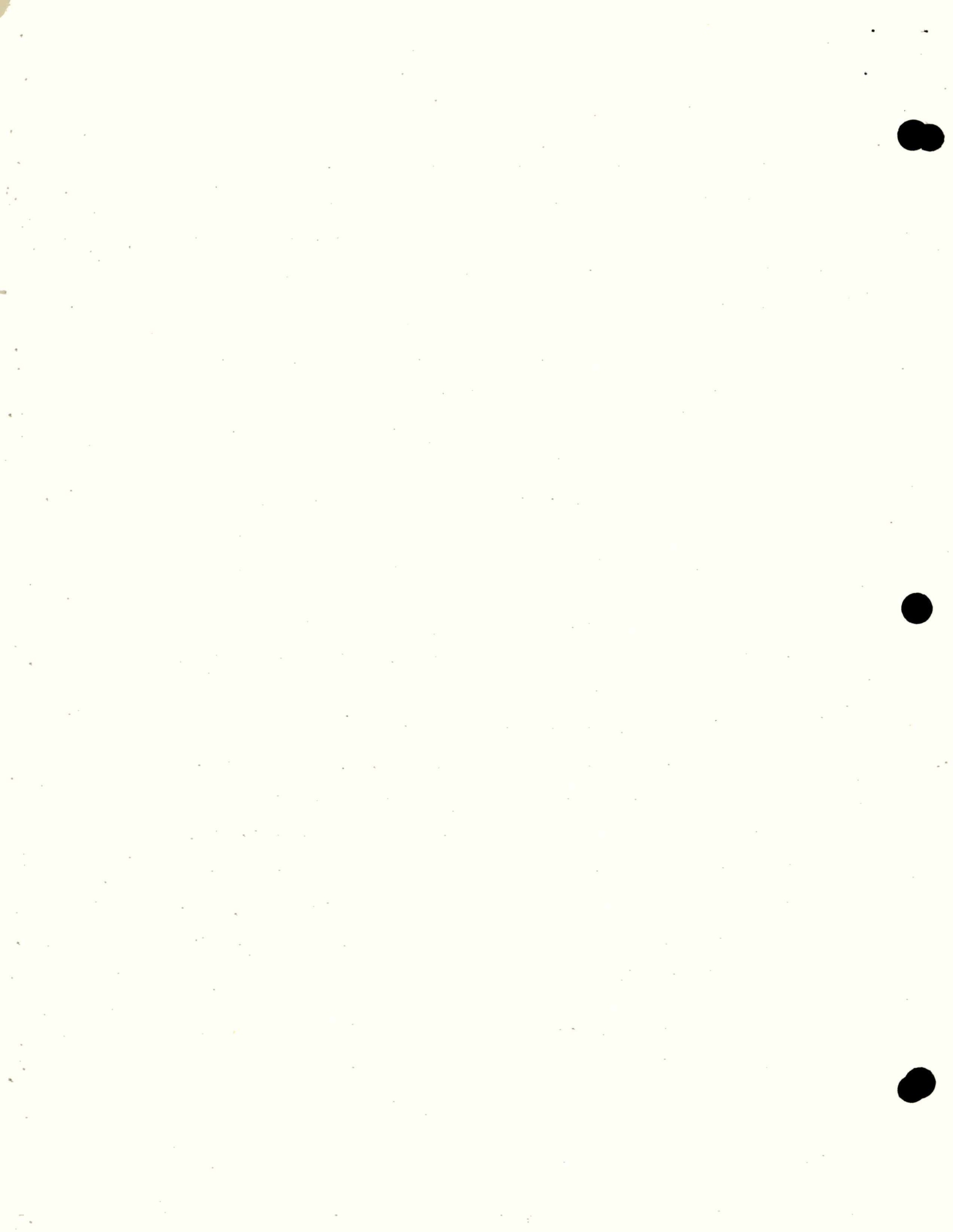
programmes. In so doing he acts, of course, in close cooperation with national planning agencies, representatives of international agencies and bilateral programmes. My delegation joins with the Advisory Committee in welcoming the agreements recently concluded that will bring FAO field representatives within the offices of the UNDP Resident Representatives. We further agree with the Advisory Committee that other participating organizations should give serious consideration to concluding similar agreements with the UNDP. We expect that, as the ECPC proceeds further in its task of reviewing the inter-relationship of the U.N. and the Specialized Agencies in the area of technical assistance, it will provide fresh insights in the important area of the co-ordination of programmes at the national and regional levels.

The Canadian delegation welcomes the fact that the Advisory Committee has chosen to select the subject of working capital funds for inclusion in its report on general co-ordination matters. We have in the past questioned the policy of some Agencies of crediting miscellaneous income to the working capital fund rather than to the general fund. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts in its second report, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly, recommended that this practice be discontinued. We expect that Agencies which do not currently conform to this recommendation will be taking steps to do so. While we were grateful for the useful



summary of the present procedures used by the Agencies in maintaining their working capital funds we are of the view that some critical comments and suggestions for further action by the Advisory Committee, would have been most useful. We do not consider, however, that it is particularly meaningful to relate the level of the working capital fund to the level of the gross budget estimates, as it does in paragraphs 30 and 31 of A/6910. We doubt the value of such a comparison, especially since the situation in each organization varies to quite an extent. We believe that the emphasis should be placed, as the Committee notes in paragraph 27 of its report A/6910, on the Ad Hoc Committee of Fourteen's observation that more importance be given to the expected timing of the inflow and outflow of the total funds at the disposal of the organizations.

In commenting on Electronic data-processing equipment, the Advisory Committee noted that computer-sharing is both economical and efficient. The Advisory Committee has reported on current practices of the U.N. system in allocating resources for the use of computers and it has made inquiries on the feasibility of computer-sharing on a more extensive basis. On the basis of these inquiries, the Committee has recommended that the ACC keep under constant review the question of joint use of a central computing facility by European based agencies and organizations. The Committee goes on to recommend again that the agencies should rent computers for the minimum periods consistent with economy rather than purchase them. In addition the Advisory Committee suggests that the U.N. family keep the question of data-processing equipment under constant review so as to ensure that such equipment is concentrated in the most economical manner, and

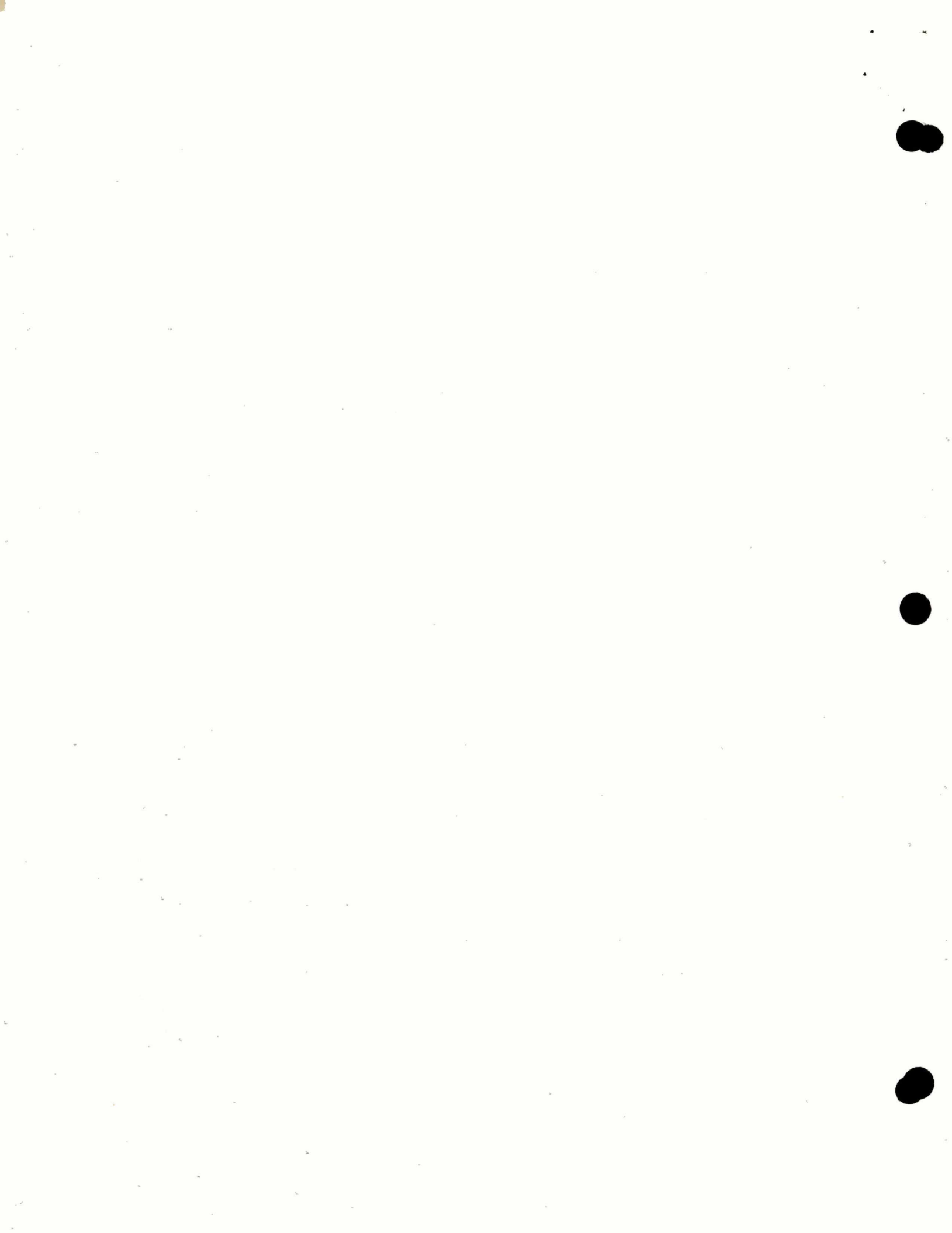


that statistical information and conclusions are shared between the organizations to the greatest possible extent. Our delegation wholly supports the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Electronic data-processing equipment and commends these recommendations to member states and to the U.N. family at large.

Mr. Chairman, we are encouraged to see that in dealing with general co-ordination matters the ACABQ has taken it upon itself to set its own priorities. Not only does the Canadian delegation welcome the fact that the Advisory Committee has deemed it necessary to concentrate on selected problems under the topic of general co-ordination but we would commend this approach to those bodies more directly involved with co-ordination.

The Advisory Committee has this year undertaken its first in-depth Review of the Administrative and Management Procedures of a U.N. Specialized Agency namely UNESCO. My delegation warmly endorses this response by the Advisory Committee and UNESCO to a recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee in which we had particular interest. We support the view that the ACABQ should not limit its attention to the U.N. itself but should also share its expertise with the other organs of the U.N. family. We feel this will assist the continuing development of common procedures for administration and management within the United Nations family as a whole as well as of improving current practices within the specific Agency under review.

My delegation welcomes the Advisory Committee's report on UNESCO in A/6905 but we must observe that members of the Fifth

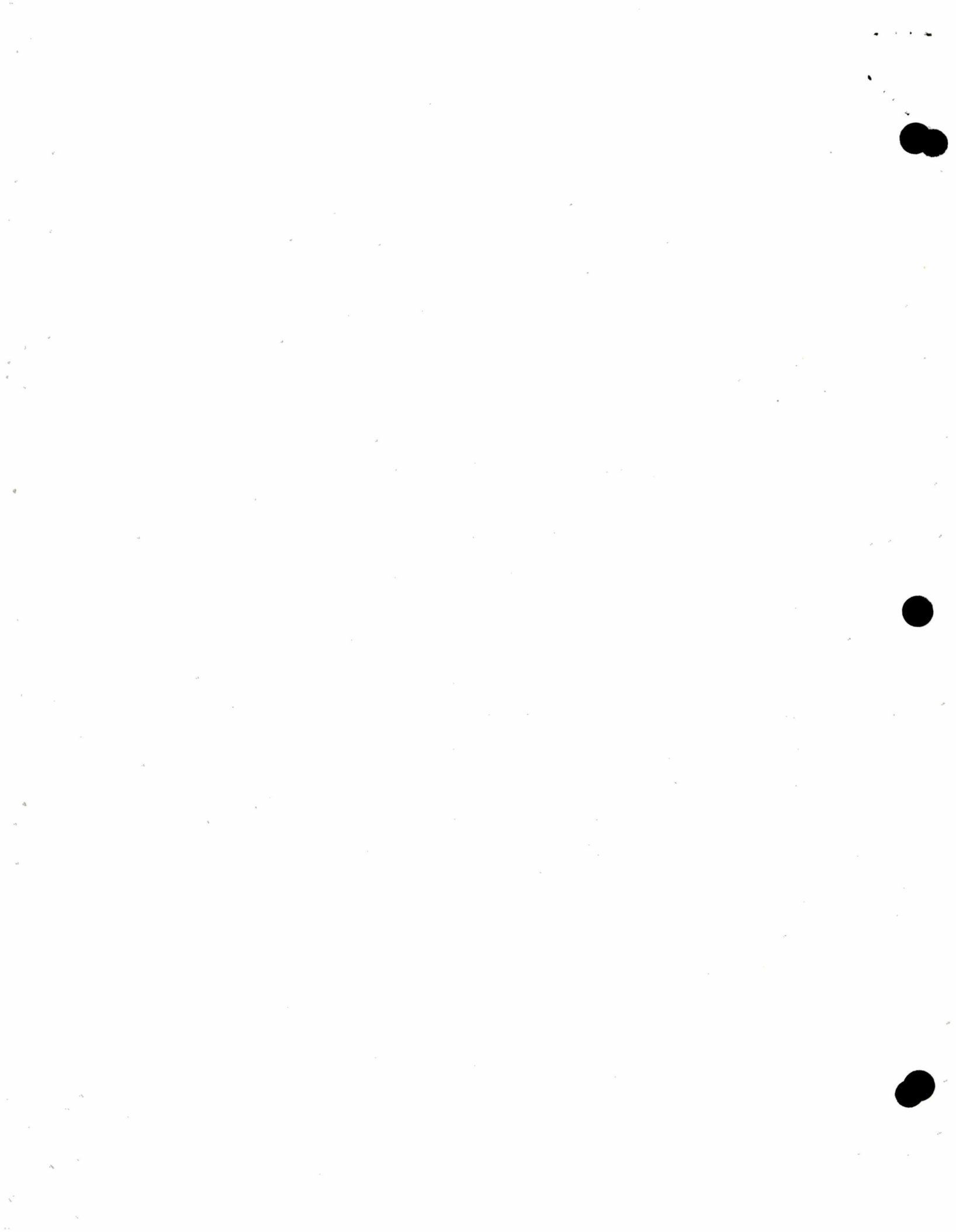


Committee have not had sufficient time to consider its recommendations and discuss its application.

We are aware that the General Conference and the Executive Board of UNESCO will be considering this report and we were pleased by the statement yesterday by the representative of UNESCO to this effect. Members of the Fifth Committee also have a responsibility to comment on reports of this kind, not only because the Fifth Committee has an interest in developing common principles for application in the U.N. system, but in addition because most member states are not represented on the governing organs of the bodies in question. We would hope that in the future the Fifth Committee would take the time to consider carefully the appropriate application of the Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the Administrative and Management procedures of any U.N. organ studied.

Without having had the time necessary to make a proper analysis of this thorough report, we wish at this time to offer only a few brief comments of a general nature. We endorse the approach of the Advisory Committee in dealing with all operational aspects and resisting the temptation to limit its scope.

We are encouraged that the Advisory Committee felt free to point out that contradictions exist in the various directives issued by the General Conference concerning the programme trends and objectives of UNESCO. Our delegation would support any effort made in the General Conference to concentrate programme and budgetary resources on selected priorities of primary importance while eliminating marginal activities. We consider that education should be the continuing first



priority.

One possibility that should not be ruled out in our general consideration of these reviews is that the Fifth Committee may wish to draw upon some of the experience of the Agencies in the administrative and management field, which may be revealed from the ACABQ's studies, and apply it to the practices of the U.N. itself. The experience of the Agencies in operating multi-annual budgets is of particular interest to our delegation.

Mr. Chairman, I am all too conscious of the inadequacy of our comments on these thorough reports in this significant field. I can only state that we would hope to give more complete attention to the reports under this item at the next assembly if we receive the reports early enough. I wish again to thank the Advisory Committee for its fine efforts and in particular to commend its report on UNESCO to the General Conference and the Executive Board of that Organization. We also wish to express our appreciation to UNESCO for its participation in this review, as the first of the Specialized Agencies upon which the Advisory Committee has focused its attention. Our final thought is that we consider that all three of the Advisory Committee's reports under this item should be referred to the ECPC for detailed examination.

