

Files and Conferences Files of the Sec. - Gen. : U Thant
on Co-ordination. UN HQ. 22-23 October 1969.

22/09/1969 -
23/10/1969

Clear pp

1 APR 07 2011

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 0058

BOX 1

FILE 24

ACC. DAG 1/5.2.1.7

J-30
WP

✓

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release M/1854
23 October 1969

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION MEETS AT HEADQUARTERS

The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), which is composed of the executive heads of the specialized agencies and of United Nations programmes, met on 22 October at United Nations Headquarters in New York under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, U Thant.

Among the subjects discussed were the arrangements proposed for marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, the progress of preparations for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and broad co-ordination aspects of the recent report of the Commission on International Development chaired by Lester B. Pearson.

The Committee accepted an invitation to hold its next meeting in April 1970 in Vienna, where the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization are situated.

Those attending included David A. Morse, Secretary-General, International Labour Organisation (ILO); Addeke H. Boerma, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); René Maheu, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Marcolino G. Candau, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO); Robert S. McNamara, President, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); Pierre-Paul Schweitzer, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF); Bernard T. Twigt, Secretary-General, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); Mohamed Mili, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU); David A. Davies, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Sigvard Eklund, Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Philippe de Seynes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social

(more)

Press Release M/1834
23 October 1969

Affairs, Manuel Pérez-Guerrero, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Ibrahim H. Abdel-Rahman, Executive Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Henry R. Labouisse, Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Laurence V. Michelmore, Commissioner-General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and Chief S.D. Adebo, Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

* * * * *

To: H.E. U Thant:

This is just to confirm that the dinner
to Mr. David Owen will be held in the Salon
Ragueneau of Le Perigord, 405 East 52nd Street
(near the corner of First Avenue) on Tuesday,
21 October. We very much look forward to your
presence, at 7.30 p.m for 8.15 p.m.

*I have regretted
to Martin Hill.*

*QJ
2/10.*

DINNER TO MR. DAVID OWEN, 21 OCTOBER 1969

Participants

Mr. D. Owen

U Thant

Mr. P. Hoffman

Mr. C.V. Narasimhan

Mr. P. de Seynes

Mr. A.H. Boerma

Mr. M. Perez-Guerrero

Mr. D. Morse

Dr. M. Candau

Mr. R. Maheu

Mr. M. Mili

Mr. D.A. Davies

Dr. S. Eklund

Mr. L. Michelmore

Chief S.O. Adebo

Mr. P-P Schweizer

Mr. R. McNamara

Mr. M. Hill

Mr. B. Twigt

Mr. Abdel-Rahman

Mr. H. Labouisse

Mr. A. Stark

24 July 1969

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your kind letter of 18 July. The Secretary-General will be glad to join the dinner for David Owen to be organized by Heads of Agencies on the night of 21 October 1969.

He has noted that the IACB meetings may run over to the morning of Tuesday 21 October. He also notes the programme for the ACC meeting on 21 October and the Joint Meetings of the CPC and ACC on 22 October.

As far as the programme for next Spring is concerned we may discuss it further after your return to New York and take a decision in October.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Martin Hill
Assistant Secretary-General for
Inter-Agency Affairs
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

cc - Mr. Lemieux ✓



Télégrammes : UNATIONS, GENÈVE
Télex : 22.212 ou 22.344
Téléphone : 346011 334000 332000 331000

Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 GENÈVE 10

REF. No :
(à rappeler dans la réponse)

S.G.
*A below - many I say
yes' on your behalf? The
circumstances are such that*

18 July 1969

Dear C.V.,

*21/7 out.
will work
A*
Boerma has asked me to convey to the Secretary-General and Paul Hoffman that the heads of the agencies would like to have an opportunity of giving a farewell party for David Owen. David can arrange to be in New York at the time of the IACB and ACC meetings, and Boerma wonders whether a dinner on the evening of 20 or 21 October would suit the Secretary-General. If so, he would notify the agency heads and make arrangements. Could you let me know? *23/7*

*noted.
23/7*
Isamat will report fully on the many developments here that will interest the Secretary-General and yourself, especially the ACC and the attitude of agency heads, the Joint Meetings, and the opening week of ECOSOC. I will confine myself to one point. The CPC asked for a further Joint Meeting with ACC at the time of the latter's meeting in October, the purpose being to discuss ACC's organizational proposals. I enclose a copy of my letter to Paul about the slight change in timing this will involve - i.e. IACB on Monday, 20th - possibly running over to Tuesday morning; ACC Tuesday, 21st, and Joint Meetings on the 22nd. I hope this will be all right with the Secretary-General.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Hill

Martin Hill

Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

*noted.
23/7*
P.S. I sounded the agency heads informally at ACC about the dates for next Spring session which you had given me, namely Thursday and Friday, 23 and 24 April, with, of course, the possibility of spilling over until the following (Saturday) morning. No one had any objection, but of course wished to reserve a decision on these dates until the meeting in October.

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: The Secretary-General
A:

DATE: 21 May 1969

THROUGH: Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
S/C DE: Chef de CabinetFROM: Martin Hill
DE:SUBJECT: Dates for autumn meetings of IACB and ACC
OBJET:*M. Hill**S.S. has noted
the date of 22/5/69
for the launch
also /*

The ACC has agreed that its own autumn session and that of IACB should be held in New York during the period 20 to 22 October. Mr. Hoffman would like to have the IACB meet on the 20th and 21st to take up, inter alia, the Jackson report. The ACC would then meet on the 22nd (Wednesday). May I take it that this is acceptable to you?

A one-day meeting for ACC has been envisaged, but some agency representatives here feel that there may be some spillover from the IACB in connexion with the Jackson report and other important developments, in which case a continuation of the ACC meeting on Thursday might be found necessary. I think we need not, however, anticipate this eventuality at the present stage.

✓

Remarks by the Secretary-General at the opening of the Joint ACC-CPC
meetings on 23 October 1969

. First let me say how sorry I am that I could not be with you all in Geneva in July and that because of my absence a joint discussion of Chapter I of the ACC's report had to be postponed. In the meantime, most, if not all, of the misunderstandings to which the chapter gave rise have probably been cleared up in the Co-ordination Committee of ECOSOC and to some extent perhaps also in the ECPC; but it may be well, all the same, for me to give you a brief conspectus of the ACC's proposals themselves and the context in which they were drawn up.

Perhaps I might best begin by recalling that a year ago I drew the attention of the General Assembly to the sense of concern in many quarters at the growth in the number of bodies and programmes established by inter-governmental organs primarily or largely for co-ordination purposes, in the time and the documentation required to service them, and in the complexities and duplications which they inevitably involved. I expressed the hope that these arrangements would be carefully scrutinized at the intergovernmental level; at the same time I invited the ACC to review and scrutinize the work of inter-agency arrangements at the Secretariat level with a view to streamlining the ACC machinery and to enabling it to discharge its responsibilities as effectively as possible.

A process of intensive review then began, the problem being to see how, given the rather limited time the heads of the United Nations organizations themselves can devote to meeting together, the functioning and organization of ACC could best be adjusted to the enormously increased demands being made upon the intergovernmental bodies and the ACC itself. From a purely

quantitative point of view, the increase in its workload has been commensurate with that in the growth and volume of international activities; indeed, because of the increasing interdependence of so much international work and the complications involved by the creation of new organizations and programmes, it may have been greater. From the qualitative point of view, the change in its functions over the last ten years or so is perhaps still more striking. The co-ordination in depth of the work of different organizations under broad programmes such as the Development Decade and the applications of science and technology, the emphasis laid by the Council and the Assembly upon decentralization and the evaluation of technical co-operation activities, and such major institutional developments as the establishment of UNIDO and UNCTAD and the vast expansion of UNDP have profoundly altered the character of the tasks to be performed by, and the contribution expected of, the ACC. The Joint ACC-CPC meetings in 1967 recorded general agreement that the ACC's role and that of the Council were complementary and that it should play a more active part vis-à-vis the Council. Again in resolution 1174 (XLI) the Council recognized the increasing responsibility that was being placed on the ACC as a result of decisions of the Council and the General Assembly for "furthering the common pursuit of recognized priority objectives through jointly conceived programmes for international action".

Throughout our deliberations we have been acutely aware of the immense responsibilities falling on the governments and our organizations and the urgent need to take every advantage of the resources available to the United Nations system of organizations if it is to play its essential role in the forthcoming decade of development.

Chapter I of the last report of the ACC (E/4668) gives the first results of those deliberations - in terms which we now realize may have been too condensed. While the first and basic task of ACC is, of course, to ensure good co-ordination and co-operation in the United Nations family, this is now very largely - at any rate as regards the practical details - taken care of by the Preparatory Committee, the various subsidiary organs of ACC and the staff of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs. In order to carry out the ACC's broader tasks, my colleagues and I felt and continue to feel that we should devote as much time as possible to major problems and key policy issues, and that that task has now in fact become of primary importance. By "policy issues" we naturally do not mean "political issues" nor do we mean to impinge in any way on the authority which belongs to governments. This would not only be contrary to our duty, but clearly impossible. We refer rather to the factors within the purview of our organizations that all governments have to take into account in order to devise feasible solutions and to advise on alternatives that are realistically open. This is surely essential staff-work that is expected of the ACC and it would be a sad waste of the resources available in the United Nations system if it did not attempt to provide it.

In order to enable the ACC to meet its responsibilities, we agreed, as a first step, on a number of organizational and other measures. About four of these I should like to say a few words.

First, it was felt that the office dealing with Inter-Agency Affairs, which includes the secretariat serving ACC, should be under my direct authority and supervision. It is being transferred to the Offices of the

Secretary-General, where the staff for co-ordination and relations with the specialized agencies was in fact located until 1955. There are a number of reasons for this. In addition to matters of direct concern to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, an increasing part of ACC's work is concerned with matters relating to budget administration, public information, decolonization, human rights, etc. which are dealt with in other departments of the United Nations Secretariat. Furthermore, there are now a number of United Nations organs, including UNDP, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNIDO, WFP, UNHCR and UNITAR, which participate fully in the ACC and in the arrangements for inter-agency co-ordination. At the same time, in changing the location of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, I am mindful of the continuing need for its special links and very close co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. What I emphasized in 1967 stands, namely that on matters affecting co-ordination in the economic and social fields, the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs should consult and work in close co-operation with the head of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in agreement with whom he may call for assistance from any of the departmental bureaux or divisions. I attach importance to this arrangement since the Department, like the Council itself, is more and more involved in programme co-ordination and in the definition of broad policies affecting the fields of competence of several organizations.

The second point of agreement was that the responsibilities of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs should be enlarged and that the Office should have a somewhat strengthened staff both at New York and Geneva.

It is indeed anomalous that the Office's very small staff at Headquarters, consisting of five professionals assisting the Assistant Secretary-General, has not been increased since 1965. I have submitted a request for additional staff and this request is currently under consideration by the ACABQ. The heads of the agencies and I feel that the strengthening of the staff is of absolutely crucial importance for the proper functioning of ACC as well as for the streamlining of ACC's machinery.

This leads me to the third group of measures which we hope soon to put into effect. We wish to enhance the authority of the Preparatory Committee to dispose under our supervision of all matters that need not be dealt with in detail by ACC. With the enlargement of the staff available we believe it should be possible considerably to shorten the duration of the Preparatory Committee meetings and furthermore to reduce the frequency of and in some cases actually to render unnecessary, meetings of the various subsidiary bodies of the ACC.

I have been speaking as Chairman of the ACC on behalf of all members of that Committee. Let me add a few words in my capacity as Secretary-General and recall some observations I made in the Introduction to my latest Annual Report to the General Assembly. The major tasks which the United Nations has embarked upon in the economic, social and human rights fields, tasks that open up new perspectives for the welfare of mankind, not only require, but are unlikely to succeed without, the intensive and well co-ordinated efforts of the entire United Nations system. In directing, promoting and maintaining such co-operative action, the importance of the role of the ACC is surely self-evident. In its

efforts both to strengthen inter-agency co-operation and its own co-operation with the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, some new methods and some new approaches are called for and are being introduced. At the same time, we must of course carefully preserve the essential principles on which the Committee is based, and the characteristics which have determined its influence and usefulness. Among those principles and characteristics three seem to be of particular importance: first the direct participation of the executive heads themselves in the meetings and activities of the Committee; secondly, the leadership which has been entrusted to the United Nations and must be exercised by it; and thirdly, the Committee's essentially consultative character. The members of the Committee participate by virtue of decisions of their respective governing organs and, in many cases, the Committee's reports are received and discussed by those organs, thus constituting a continuing link between the different parts of the United Nations system. This special character of the Committee is indeed a condition of the influence which the Committee is able to exercise, in co-operation with and under the general guidance of the Economic and Social Council.

As I told the Council in July, I attach as much importance to conserving that influence and to maintaining a climate of mutual confidence among the members of the ACC as I do to strengthening the intergovernmental fabric for co-ordination throughout the United Nations system. A strengthened Committee is indeed indispensable if the United Nations system is to make its due

contribution during the Second United Nations Development Decade towards realizing the economic and social objectives of the Charter. It depends for its effectiveness very largely and directly on understanding, encouragement and support by governments and intergovernmental bodies. Such understanding, encouragement and support by the CPC and the Council itself will be very valuable.

Item 5. Preparations for the resumed ACC/CPC Joint Meeting on the question of the interagency machinery for co-ordination

Decision taken by the Council during its forty-seventh session

(f) To refer to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for consideration at their joint meetings, to be held in October 1969, Suggestion No.2, contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the work of the Organization, that the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be held biennially, unless special circumstances require more frequent meetings.^{1/}

1/ See E/L.1249, para.18

Extract from E/L.1249, para.18

18. The remaining subsidiary organs of the Council referred to in paragraph 6 above have not met since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2478 (XXIII) but are expected to consider the recommendation of the General Assembly when next they meet. Their views will be brought to the attention of the Council as soon as they are available. In this connexion, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America has proposed to the Commission (E/CN.12/822 and Add.1) that regular meetings of the Committee of the Whole, which, until now, has met in the years in which the Commission itself did not meet, be discontinued. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe has presented detailed proposals regarding its organizational structure to the Commission in document E/ECE/717 in accordance with which continued annual meetings of the Commission are envisaged.

Suggestion No.2:

That the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be held biennially unless special circumstances require more frequent meetings.

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/AC.51/37
CO-ORDINATION/JM/11
17 October 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

JOINT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION AND
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON
CO-ORDINATION
23 October 1969

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Restructuring of the machinery for co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system

The Joint Meetings would have before it the report of the ACC (E/4668, para. 16) and the second report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its third session (E/4716, chap. II A), on which discussion was postponed in July. The report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4748) and a paper on the ACC's mandate, subsidiary machinery and staff prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/35/Rev.1, CO-ORDINATION/JM/10/Rev.1) are also available.

2. Question of the periodicity of the Joint Meetings

The Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session decided to refer to the Joint Meetings a suggestion contained in a working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the work of the Organization, "that the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be held biennially, unless special circumstances require more frequent meetings" (E/L.1249, para. 18). The attention of the Joint Meetings is also drawn to Council resolution 1459 (XLVII) in which it "Recommends that the practice of holding joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be pursued".



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/AC.51/37
CO-ORDINATION/JM/11
17 October 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

JOINT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION AND
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON
CO-ORDINATION
23 October 1969

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Restructuring of the machinery for co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system

The Joint Meetings would have before it the report of the ACC (E/4668, para. 16) and the second report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its third session (E/4716, chap. II A), on which discussion was postponed in July. The report of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4748) and a paper on the ACC's mandate, subsidiary machinery and staff prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/35/Rev.1, CO-ORDINATION/JM/10/Rev.1) are also available.

2. Question of the periodicity of the Joint Meetings

The Economic and Social Council at its forty-seventh session decided to refer to the Joint Meetings a suggestion contained in a working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the work of the Organization, "that the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be held biennially, unless special circumstances require more frequent meetings" (E/L.1249, para. 18). The attention of the Joint Meetings is also drawn to Council resolution 1459 (XLVII) in which it "Recommends that the practice of holding joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be pursued".

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CO-ORDINATION/R.782
16 October 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Forty-ninth session

REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Sixty-third session

Contents

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 3
I. MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF ACC	4 - 36
(1) Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations	4 - 5
(2) Review of the functioning of inter-agency machinery for co-ordination	6 - 12
(3) Recommendations of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination	13 - 15
(4) Preparations for the resumed Joint Meetings	16 - 19
(5) Second United Nations Development Decade	20 - 21
(6) Youth	22 - 26
(7) Human environment	27 - 28
(8) Report of the special session of CCAQ	29 - 31
(9) Questions concerning the Joint Inspection Unit	32 - 33
(10) Computers	34
(11) Date and place of the next session of ACC, of the Preparatory Committee and of ACC subsidiary bodies	35 - 36

Contents (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
II. MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	
(1) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	37 - 38
(2) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination	39 - 40
(3) Water resources	41 - 42
(4) Science and technology	43 - 44
(5) Tourism	45
(6) Population questions	46
(7) International action to meet natural disasters	47
(8) Analytical reports to the Council by the specialized agencies and the IAEA	48

INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Committee met at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9-16 October 1969 and as a result of its consideration of the various items contained in the provisional agenda (CO-ORDINATION/R.758/Rev.2), it is now submitting to the ACC a draft agenda bringing out matters dealt with in the present report which seem to require the ACC's attention (CO-ORDINATION/R.780). These matters are covered in Part I of the present report while questions which have been dealt with by the Preparatory Committee are contained in Part II.
2. It is again proposed that ACC should not issue a report in connexion with its October session but that members should be authorized to refer at their discretion to the ACC's discussions and conclusions in reporting to their legislative and governing organs.
3. A list of participants will be circulated in an addendum to the present report.

/...

I. MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF ACC

(1) Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations (item 2)

4. The United Nations Chef de Cabinet provided the Committee with information regarding the plans for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in 1970 which, it was hoped, would serve as an occasion for all Member States to reaffirm their dedication to the objectives of the Organization. A primary objective of the activities, which would revolve around the theme of "peace and progress", was to strengthen the United Nations and increase its effectiveness. Thus, those United Nations bodies which had before them such unresolved questions as arrangements for the Second Development Decade, peace-keeping operations, disarmament and decolonization, would be requested to contribute material for a final declaration or declarations which were expected to delineate the major unsolved tasks of the Organization for the 1970s. The General Assembly would hold a commemorative session culminating on 24 October 1970 in which the participation of Heads of State and Government would be encouraged wherever possible. The Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary would, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, co-ordinate the preparation of a suitable text for this purpose. The summer session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva would open with a ceremonial meeting, at which one of the executive heads of the specialized agencies would be invited to make a statement on behalf of the agencies. Among other programmes, there would be a Youth Assembly, to be held in New York in July 1970. The specialized agencies would be invited to take note of the anniversary and to take whatever action they considered appropriate.

5. Questions were raised by the representatives of the agencies, particularly with regard to the financing and organization of the Youth Assembly, as well as the criteria for representation. It was pointed out that the present plan to invite only participants from Member States of the United Nations might create difficulties for the full participation of the agencies having different memberships.

/...

(2) Review and functioning of interagency machinery for co-ordination (Item 4)

Follow-up of ACC decisions at its forty-seventh session

6. The ACC will no doubt wish to review this matter itself, and for convenience of reference, the texts of Chapter I of ACC's last report to the Economic and Social Council (E/4668) and paragraphs 8-13 of the "Summary of Results" of that session (CO-ORDINATION/R.751) are annexed hereto (see annexes I and II).

7. It is understood that the Secretary-General will inform the ACC orally on the implementation of the decisions involving his direct responsibility. The Preparatory Committee has attempted to limit the number of questions being brought up to ACC by "disposing of all interagency business not requiring specific consideration and decision by the executive heads themselves."

8. On the other hand, the implementation of several decisions has been delayed for various reasons, among them the fact that the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs is unable to undertake many of the functions assigned to it until its staff has been increased.

Pending suggestions for improving the functioning of ACC

9. These again are matters for consideration at the ACC level. The proposals of the Directors-General of IAEA and WMO and of the Director-General of FAO have been circulated in documents CO-ORDINATION/R.774 and CO-ORDINATION/R.777 respectively.

Review of ACC subsidiary bodies

10. The Preparatory Committee has held a preliminary discussion with regard to the subsidiary machinery of ACC and plans to devote much of the second part of its session to this matter.

11. The views of many organizations have only just been made available in document CO-ORDINATION/R.765 and Add.1-9, while those of some others have yet to be received. Some of the replies raised general issues with far-reaching

/...

ramifications, which did not lend themselves to hasty decision; these included, for example, the extent to which - and the cases in which - subsidiary organs need continue to report to ACC on technical questions and the way in which future programmes, particularly in cross-sectoral areas that are important from the standpoint of policy, could be reviewed on a joint basis. It was also pointed out that the role to be played by the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs in future would affect the decisions to be reached with regard to some of the subsidiary bodies, and that that role depended to a great extent on what additional staff was made available to it.

12. The Preparatory Committee therefore expects, later in the session, to go into these general issues and also the situation with respect to each of the subsidiary bodies. It would also take whatever decisions are needed on a provisional basis for the rest of 1969 and early 1970. At its next session in April 1970, the Preparatory Committee would propose to set aside a couple of days to complete this task in the light also of further views and suggestions that may be received meanwhile and to prepare for the ACC a comprehensive series of recommendations with regard to the arrangements for subsidiary bodies.

(3) Recommendations of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and co-ordination (Item 6)

13. With reference to Recommendation A of the ECPC for the establishment of a reconstituted CPC (E/4748, paras. 20-36), the Preparatory Committee wishes to draw ACC's attention, in particular, to the following points:

(a) It is provided that the Committee "would work in close collaboration with ACC";

(b) The provisions with regard to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit have been brought into alignment with the agreement reached at the Joint Meetings in July 1969;

/...

(c) While, subject to the Council's authorization, the Committee would be empowered to communicate its views directly to the agencies with respect to any matters coming within its terms of reference, formal recommendations would be submitted through the Economic and Social Council;

(d) The terms of reference, while not entirely clear, seem to indicate that the CPC would not duplicate the programme-reviewing functions vested in the governing and legislative organs of the agencies;

(e) The requirements of the new committee for information on agency programmes and evaluation studies are set in rather broad terms.

14. The new text as a whole seems to provide the basis for a workable compromise, and ACC may wish to convey to CPC its readiness to co-operate closely with the reconstituted committee when established on the lines proposed.

15. None of the other recommendations of the ECPC would appear to require ACC's attention at the present time.

(4) Preparations for the resumed joint meetings (Item 5)

16. Great importance was attached to the Secretary-General making an introductory statement as the Chairman of ACC, at the opening of the Joint Meeting. This statement would reply to certain questions raised by members of the CPC last June with regard to the agreements reached by the ACC in April and would seek to clarify the role of the ACC in co-operating with and assisting the policy-making and programme-formulating organs of the United Nations system. It was also hoped that other members of ACC would participate fully in the discussion.

17. It would not seem advisable at this stage to raise questions of detail concerning the ECPC's recommendation for a reconstituted CPC. However, it should be made clear that members of ACC shared the Committee's hope "that a sound basis for closer and more effective consultation in the future has now been laid." The importance of having adequate procedural arrangements for this

/...

purpose in all intergovernmental organs, including the General Assembly (such as the adoption of a rule similar to Rule 80 of the Economic and Social Council), and the readiness of executive heads to bring the provisions for a reconstituted CPC to the attention of their governing and legislative organs might also be indicated.

18. The Secretariat's note on the mandate, subsidiary machinery and present staff of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/AC.51/35) which will be before the Joint Meetings is being reissued in slightly revised form.

19. A further item on the agenda will be the periodicity of the Joint Meetings; it has been suggested by the Economic and Social Council secretariat that the Joint Meetings should be held every two years, while the Council, in resolution 1459 (XLVII) recommended that "the practice of holding Joint Meetings... should be pursued". The ACC has never taken a position on this matter and the Preparatory Committee recommends that it should comply with the wishes of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in this respect.

1 (5) Second United Nations Development Decade (Item 3)

20. The representative of UNCTAD provided the Preparatory Committee with explanations on resolution 63 (IX), adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its resumed ninth session, regarding special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries. He stated that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD proposed to raise the question in ACC, both with regard to the possibility of enlisting the co-operation of the agencies in studies called for in operative paragraph 1, and in order to hold consultations as to how the wider questions raised in paragraphs 2 and 3 should be treated in the General Assembly and what positions the agencies would take if and when the General Assembly sought their views on the matter. The resolution would not be formally transmitted to the agencies but the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would indicate what forms of co-operation with the agencies he considered would be most useful.

/...

21. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs provided the Committee with information on recent developments in the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and clarified a number of points in order to make the forthcoming meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on the Second United Nations Development Decade more fruitful. He recalled that the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade had requested the agencies to submit, by November 1969, statements on the key strategic objectives in their areas of competence, including goals expressed in quantitative or qualitative terms as appropriate, which could be used in preparing the preliminary framework of international strategy. At the forthcoming meeting the Sub-Committee would discuss the submission of these objectives as well as the question of the reconciliation of basic assumptions for growth rate targets. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General suggested that the contributions to be provided by the organizations - at the request of the Preparatory Committee - on targets, objectives and policies, should be in a form which the Preparatory Committee could consider for inclusion in its report and should therefore be as brief as possible. The Committee agreed that there was an increasingly urgent need for feed-back of information from the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, in particular it might comment on contributions received from the specialized agencies and suggest what changes might be made in future contributions.

2 (6) Youth (Item 9)

22. The Committee considered the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Youth and expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved at the Meeting, and with the quality of the report presented.

23. The Preparatory Committee took note of the main conclusions of the report and in particular its sections concerning participation of young people in meetings and other activities of the United Nations organizations, and those dealing with the procedures to be followed for the planning of joint interagency missions and interagency projects in selected countries and with the role to be played in this connexion by the interagency liaison officer.

/...

24. The Committee endorsed the agreement reached at the Meeting regarding the publication of a series of popular style booklets about various aspects of youth action in development; it also concurred with the recommendation that the ACC Working Group on Rural and Community Development should be invited to include in its agenda, at a future meeting, a discussion on the strategy of youth work within an integrated rural development.

25. With reference to the international meeting in 1971 on the participation of youth in the Second Development Decade, which is included in the work programme of the Commission for Social Development, as endorsed by the Council, the Committee suggests that, while there is strong support for the meeting among international youth organizations, more information is needed on the impact that the meeting could in fact have for the solution of the problems in question. It was agreed that the timing of the meeting should also be carefully considered, especially in relation to the timing of the Youth Assembly scheduled for July 1970.

26. Finally, regarding arrangements for the preparation of the analytical study in depth of the world situation of youth, it was decided to postpone consideration of the matter until after the ACC's session, as decisions which it might take on the question of the high level team and related matters might have relevance on the arrangements to be worked out. In this connexion, the Preparatory Committee wishes to draw attention to the over-all picture of the activities being undertaken in the field of youth by the organizations of the United Nations system contained in the Ad Hoc meeting's report (CO-ORDINATION/R.759/Add.1).

3 / (7) Human environment

27. The Preparatory Committee held a preliminary discussion on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, preparations for which cannot begin until the General Assembly has approved the financial and organizational arrangements. The Director for Science and Technology expressed the hope that the interested agencies would second staff to assist in the preparatory work of the Conference and also to act as consultants in selecting authors for papers. Representatives of many agencies pledged the full support of their organizations in this work. It was agreed that, at least for the time being, the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology was in the best position to co-ordinate

/...

activities relating to the Conference and should consider the question when it met in the spring; the other subsidiary bodies concerned should also follow the preparations closely - bearing in mind that all aspects of the human environment are involved. The United Nations undertook to inform the agencies as soon as possible what contribution - both in terms of secondment of staff and of substantive work - would be requested from them.

28. The representative of WMO said that his organization was very much concerned with the co-ordination of programmes in the field of the human environment, and felt that a separate ACC subsidiary body might eventually be needed.

4 (8) Report of the special session of CCAQ (Item 12)

29. There are two matters covered in the report of CCAQ (CO-ORDINATION/R.762) which require ACC's approval at this stage. The first follows from the CCAQ's review of the study "Budget Presentation in the United Nations system" which had been prepared by a consultant for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. CCAQ feels that the following three conclusions in this study could be accepted without further discussion:

(a) That at present the adoption by all agencies of a uniform budget presentation is not feasible;

(b) That a final conclusion as to the feasibility of such a move can only be reached after much further study; and

(c) That it does appear feasible, however, for the agencies to produce information about their budgets which is compatible.

30. CCAQ has set up a working group to consider in detail the programme classifications and compatible budget presentations proposed in the ACABQ study. A draft letter from the Chairman of ACC informing the Chairman of ACABQ of ACC's endorsement of these developments has been annexed to the present report (see annex III, below). At the second part of its session, the Preparatory Committee will consider a list of programme headings which according to agreed arrangements will then be transmitted to the working group of CCAQ.

31. Secondly, the Joint Inspection Unit's budget for 1971 and the supplementary estimates for 1970 needs ACC approval. CCAQ recommends such approval and the details regarding its budget and supplementary estimates will be found in annex D of CO-ORDINATION/R.762.

5 (9) Questions concerning the Joint Inspection Unit (Item 20)

32. The Committee had before it a note by the ACC secretariat (CO-ORDINATION/R.769) proposing - particularly in view of the new time limits resulting from the ACC/CPC consensus - a simplified procedure for interagency consultation on proposed comments on Inspectors' reports affecting several or all organizations. In accordance with this procedure each executive head, before submitting his comments to his Executive Board, would circulate a draft of his comments to the heads of other interested organizations and to the ACC secretariat. After a period, related to the urgency of the matter, he would make his submission. There would be no attempt to reach a consensus in all cases, but each organization head would have the opportunity to advise the heads of other organizations of difficulties arising from their comments, and would have the benefit of their ideas in formulating his own submission.

33. It was felt that situations might occasionally arise where simple submission and exchange of comments were not sufficient; divergencies on important points of principle might make consultations necessary and some aspects would require longer time for study in depth. In such cases, any executive head would give notice to the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, which would arrange for immediate consultations or the organization of a study in depth. Subject to these reservations, the Committee agreed that the simplified procedure as proposed in the document should be given a year's trial.

6 10. Computers (Item 21)

34. The Committee was informed of the intention of the Directors-General of ILO and WHO to propose that the ACC request the Secretary-General to arrange for the study of the Auditor General of Canada on the management study of United Nations electronic data processing facilities and operations, to be extended to the specialized agencies located "in or within technically and economically feasible computer linking distances of Geneva". It was felt that the aims of the proposed second phase of the study should be carefully studied and clearly defined, taking into account the studies now being undertaken in connexion with the UNDP Capacity Study. The financing of the proposed study would also require consideration. One representative stated that his agency, although not located in Geneva, might wish to be included in any further study, and that various possibilities were open for ACC as regards preparation of such a study.

7 11. Date and place of the next session of ACC, of the Preparatory Committee, and of ACC subsidiary bodies (Item 13)

35. While it was impossible to find a date which would be equally convenient to all agencies, the Preparatory Committee suggests that the most appropriate date for the ACC's spring session would be 23-24 April 1970, preceded by a session of the Preparatory Committee on 6-14 April - both sessions to take place in Geneva. Some extra time may be needed at this session of the Preparatory Committee in order to complete the review of the subsidiary bodies.

/...

36. While the draft calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1969 and the first half of 1970 has been circulated in CO-ORDINATION/R.766, the Preparatory Committee will finalize the calendar in the light of the discussions on subsidiary bodies which are to take place immediately following the ACC's session.

II. MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

(1) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

37. The Preparatory Committee discussed the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1450 (XLVII) and the resolution recently adopted by the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/345) - both relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The representative of the United Nations clarified a number of points, and gave the undertaking that supplementary information relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies that was received by the United Nations before the end of October would be included in the Special Committee's report on the question to the General Assembly.

38. Members of the Committee were given an opportunity to check and supplement a draft of the report being prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII), operative paragraph 8 (a). It was agreed that this draft should be somewhat revised in the light of comments made by representatives of the agencies.

(2) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

39. The representative of the United Nations provided information on the Secretary-General's suggestions for the programme for the celebration in 1971 of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in document A/7649. He drew attention in particular to suggestion E, relating to activities which might be carried out by the specialized agencies whose work has bearing on the promotion of respect for human rights, and to the suggestion that the Secretary-General might be requested to co-ordinate all activities undertaken in connexion with the Year.

40. A number of representatives stated that their agencies were prepared to co-operate fully, but wished first to study the Secretary-General's suggestions.

/...

(3) Water resources (Item 7)

41. The Preparatory Committee welcomed the report of the Sub-Committee on Water Resources (CO-ORDINATION/R.760) and endorsed the conclusions contained therein. It expressed great satisfaction over the progress that had been made in finding solutions to the problems which had arisen in this field, particularly the clarification of the role of the Water Development Centre. It looked forward to receiving the results of the Sub-Committee's forthcoming studies of co-ordination of operational responsibilities regarding UNDP/SF projects (paragraph 100) and of policy guidelines in the field of water resources (paragraph 105), and expressed the hope that the Sub-Committee would continue to review the institutional arrangements for work in this field at each future meeting.

42. The Committee suggests that the ACC may incorporate the substance of the conclusions of the meeting in its thirty-sixth report. It also decided to attach this material to the record of decisions of its present session.

(4) Science and technology (Item 19)

43. The Director for Science and Technology provided information on the arrangements envisaged for the preparation of the report called for under Council resolution 1454 (XLVII) and Recommendation C of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4748, paras. 43-65): the United Nations would write to the agencies in October, setting out the general framework of the report and outlining the problems involved, and requesting the views of the agencies; the views of the Advisory Committee would be ascertained at its twelfth session in November; then, in early December, the consultant who was to prepare the report would visit the agencies' headquarters for detailed consultations; early in the new year there would be further interagency consultation.

44. Members of the Committee urged that there should be close consultations throughout the preparation of the report, particularly during the early and later stages. It was agreed that meetings of the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology on substantive matters need not necessarily be linked with those of the Advisory Committee: the Sub-Committee might well meet before the Advisory Committee if that proved desirable. Questions were asked regarding the nature

/...

of co-ordination problems at the secretarial level, as well as regarding the definition of the transfer of technology with respect to training. The Director for Science and Technology expressed the hope that early discussions with the agencies would bring out any problems that did exist. It was agreed that the final draft would be available for discussion by ACC itself when it meets towards the end of April.

(5) Tourism (Item 10)

45. The representative of the United Nations provided information on the report being prepared in pursuance of Council resolution 1449 (XLVII) - which would consist mainly of an introduction, sections on the constitutional and organizational alternatives (including their advantages and disadvantages and financial implications) for establishing an intergovernmental organization in this field, as well as factual information regarding IUOTO. In response to questions raised by representatives of the agencies, he assured the Committee that the report would bring out the importance of avoiding duplication with existing activities in any new arrangements that were made in this field. Members of the Committee expressed the hope that it would be possible for them to see the text of the report before it was submitted to the Council. It was agreed that interested members of the Committee would be shown the text on an informal basis.

(6) Population questions (Item 8)

46. The Committee was informed that the draft report on the world population problem, to be presented in November to ACAST as an interagency undertaking, is now proceeding satisfactorily.

(7) International action to meet natural disasters (Item 17)

47. The Preparatory Committee considered the note prepared by the ACC secretariat (CO-ORDINATION/R.771) and held a brief discussion of the type of contribution that the agencies could best make to the interim report that was to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council in 1970, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2435 (XXIII). It was

/...

agreed that the ACC secretariat would send members of the Preparatory Committee an outline indicating the nature of the contributions that seemed to be required.

(8) Analytical reports to the Council by the specialized agencies and the IAEA

48. The Committee agreed that the suggestions submitted by the secretariat in CO-ORDINATION/R.768 for standardizing the information being submitted by the agencies in the analytical summaries of their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council should be used as a guide in the preparation of these summaries.

/...

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

CHAPTER I OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF ACC (E/4668)

I. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF INTERSECRETARIAT
MACHINERY FOR CO-ORDINATION

16. The main task of the ACC is to identify, for the benefit of the Council and the governing bodies of the organizations concerned, the major problems that confront the United Nations system of organizations, and collectively to tender advice on the manner in which its resources should be used to resolve such problems in a constructive manner. To this end, the members of ACC would devote major attention to a limited number of key policy issues and, in order to ensure that ACC is enabled to discharge effectively its major functions, they have agreed on the following practical arrangements:

I

(a) It was generally agreed that the secretariat of ACC, under the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, should function under the direct authority of the Secretary-General, reporting directly to him.

(b) It was also agreed that the responsibilities of the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs should be enlarged.^{1/}

(c) It was further agreed that the Office should have a larger staff, both at New York and at Geneva, and additional travel funds as necessary.

^{1/} These responsibilities should include the preparation of the basic documentation for, and proposals for action by, the Preparatory Committee and ACC, as well as documentation as required for intergovernmental organs, the maintenance of direct and close relations with the executive heads and senior officials of all organizations; the follow-up of ACC decisions; the exercise of initiative at the Secretariat level in regard to inter-agency problems; guidance to ACC subsidiary organs; as well as following closely developments in the organs of the United Nations and the agencies that might affect interagency relations and co-ordination.

(d) On the question of financing, it was generally agreed that the Secretary-General should discuss with the Controller and with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions the possibility of the additional expenditure being met entirely from the budget of the United Nations. If this were not found feasible, the offer of the agencies to contribute towards the expenses of the Office would be duly considered.

II

(a) With the enlargement of the ACC secretariat, it should be possible to settle by correspondence or other means many of the questions that now take up the time of the Preparatory Committee so that the duration of Preparatory Committee meetings could be shortened to approximately one week.

(b) At the same time, it was generally agreed that the Preparatory Committee should have greater authority, and that all ACC's subsidiary bodies, including the Consultative Committees on Administrative Questions and Public Information, should report to it.

(c) The ACC may decide that certain questions, or reports, may go straight to ACC for consideration. Subject to this understanding the Preparatory Committee should be in a position to deal definitively with problems of "management", and with all other issues except those which it was essential for ACC itself to consider, or on which there might be disagreement at the Preparatory Committee.

(Foot-note 1/ continued from previous page)

Special importance should be attached to the preparation of the actual work of ACC. This includes, first, the preparation of concise but detailed position papers, including a preliminary **indication of major issues** to be discussed and even, where appropriate, tentative solutions. Secondly, on major issues, it would be desirable for the ACC secretariat, when requested by ACC, to undertake, with the co-operation of participating organizations, independent major studies for the information and guidance of ACC on questions it would wish to consider in depth, and in respect of which compilation of agency activities and positions constitutes only a preliminary step.

/...

(d) The level of representation on the Preparatory Committee would be raised in principle to the Deputy Director-General or Assistant Director-General level on the understanding that any head of an agency could designate a duly authorized official of a lower rank to represent him at the Preparatory Committee meetings if necessary.

III

The annual address of the Secretary-General before the summer session of the Council should also include, as a separate section, a presentation of the substantive work of ACC and of those issues of policy on which ACC had reached prior agreement.

ANNEX II

EXTRACT FROM THE SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE ACC'S FORTY-SEVENTH
SESSION AND THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE'S SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
(CO-ORDINATION/R.751, PARAGRAPHS 8-13)

II. GENERAL CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

Review and functioning of interagency machinery for co-ordination

8. The ACC approved paragraphs 18-45 of the report of the Preparatory Committee (CO-ORDINATION/R.749). As regards the organization and functioning of ACC meetings, it agreed that:

(a) In addition to the customary two-day ACC meeting in the spring and a short meeting in the autumn, there should be a short meeting in July, in conjunction with the joint meetings with CFC.

(b) Items of business which do not require action by the ACC itself, and reports of subsidiary organs, unless they pose policy problems on which ACC itself should decide, should normally be dealt with finally by the Preparatory Committee and not appear on the agenda of ACC meetings.

(c) Fuller opportunity should be provided for well-prepared discussion in depth at ACC meetings of one or more major tasks or problems of the United Nations system.

(d) Consultations among a limited number of organizations on issues of special interest to them only should be encouraged. The ACC itself might periodically identify such areas, and should be kept informed of the group consultations undertaken, its secretariat being available to provide such assistance as might be required.

(e) Further suggestions which were made by some members of the ACC regarding the role ACC should play to give positive leadership with respect to selected subjects of major importance to economic and social development would be considered at the July meeting of ACC.

(f) Since the ACC is to devote major attention to a limited number of key policy issues, its report should, in part at least, be drafted after the meeting by the ACC secretariat in co-operation, when appropriate, with the Preparatory Committee.

9. As regards the functioning of the Preparatory Committee,

(a) The Preparatory Committee should make full use of its authority to dispose of all current interagency business not requiring specific consideration and decision by the executive heads themselves, to refer matters to subsidiary bodies for consideration and receive their reports, and to speak and act in the name of ACC on matters coming within the Committee's purview.

(b) The problem of decisions in intergovernmental organs of different organizations that might lead to duplication or divergent action should be kept under constant attention by members of the Preparatory Committee, and any problems in this connexion placed on the Committee's agenda. If necessary, ACC could discuss at the joint meeting with CPC any important potential sources of difficulty.

(c) All decisions of the Preparatory Committee should be clearly recorded in order to ensure proper follow-up, and the ACC secretariat should continue to convey such decisions formally to subsidiary organs.

(d) Members of the Preparatory Committee should, through direct contacts with the representatives of their own agencies on the technical sub-committees, seek to anticipate and minimize cases where views put forward by an agency's officials at two different levels are at variance.

10. As regards the staff work for ACC:

(A) The Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and the ACC secretariat should be enabled - through the necessary strengthening of the staff - to carry out the arrangements laid down by the ACC in 1967. Their responsibilities include the preparation of the basic documentation for, and proposals for action by, the Preparatory Committee and the ACC, as well as documentation as required for intergovernmental organs; the maintenance of direct and close relations with the executive heads and senior officials of all organizations; the follow-up of ACC decisions; the exercise of initiative at the secretariat level in regard to interagency problems; guidance to subsidiary organs; as well as following, and where necessary intervening, in connexion with developments in the organs of the United Nations and the agencies that might affect interagency relations and co-ordination.

(b) They should attach special importance to the preparation of the actual work of ACC. This includes, first, the preparation of concise but detailed position papers, including a preliminary indication of major issues to be discussed and even, where appropriate, tentative solutions. This would allow of earlier and fuller internal consultations, and relieve the participating organizations from the burden of preparing individually historical background material which can be provided more economically on a central basis. Secondly, when requested by ACC, the ACC secretariat should undertake, with the co-operation of participating organizations, independent studies on major issues that the ACC might wish to consider in depth, and in respect of which compilation of agency activities and positions constitutes only a preliminary step.

11. Each body reporting to ACC should identify the issues on which policy decisions are required, attempt to put forward agreed solutions (with an indication of the nature of any compromise so reached) or alternative solutions with an indication of the merits of each.

12. As regards the review of ACC subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings,

(a) Full consultations would be held, including internal consultations within the various organizations, in order to carry out a serious evaluation of the continued need for individual subsidiary bodies and of any changes or clarifications which may be needed in their mandates, and to explore ways of making the meetings of these bodies and ad hoc meetings as productive as possible in terms of concrete results;

(b) Each member of the Preparatory Committee would inform the ACC secretariat as soon as possible of the outcome of these internal consultations, and this information would be circulated well in advance of the October session of the Preparatory Committee;

(c) Two days would be set aside at that session to consider the need for and the mandate of, the various existing subsidiary organs, and also how far it may be feasible to reduce the frequency of meetings and to merge certain subsidiary bodies, or to replace them by occasional ad hoc meetings;

/...

(d) Particular attention would be paid to regional interagency arrangements and their relations to arrangements among agency headquarters.

13. The Preparatory Committee concurred in general with the ACC secretariat's suggestions for improvements and economies in the functioning of subsidiary organs. It asked the ACC secretariat to begin implementation at once, in so far as it is involved, particularly to assist as fully as possible in organizing the meetings and in enabling the reports to be presented in the form best adapted to their intended purpose. The ACC secretariat was also asked to circulate to all agencies certain proposals which had been put forward during the meeting.

/...

ANNEX III

DRAFT LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN OF ACC TO CHAIRMAN OF ACABQ

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The study on Budget Preparation in the United Nations System which was prepared for the Advisory Committee and sent to the executive heads of the organizations for their comments, was discussed at a special session of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) held in Geneva on 16-19 September 1969.

ACC has now approved the preliminary recommendations and views it has received from CCAQ on this question, and in particular the following three conclusions contained in the ACABQ study:

- (1) That at present the adoption by all agencies of a uniform budget presentation is not feasible;
- (2) That a final conclusion as to the feasibility of such a move can only be reached after much further study; and
- (3) That it does appear feasible, however, for the agencies to produce information about their budgets which is compatible.

I have pleasure in enclosing, for the information of your Committee, a copy of the relevant paragraphs and annex of the CCAQ report.

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

Appendix

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CCAQ WORKING GROUP ON PROGRAMME
AND BUDGET PRESENTATION IN THE UN SYSTEM

(Text of the relevant Annex of the CCAQ report)

1. The Working Group should consider and report on
 - (i) the development of an improved framework for a consolidated presentation of past, current and planned future expenditures by the UN family of organizations under all sources of funds;
 - (ii) the extent to which this framework could be used
 - (a) for preparation and submission of the programme and budget of each organization;
 - (b) for the preparation of information annexes to such programmes and budgets in a compatible form;
 - (iii) any major problems that may be involved in developing such a common framework, including problems of (a) cost and workload; and (b) time-table, with indications or advice as to the possible solution of such problems;
 - (iv) the practical possibilities of using such a common presentation for interagency comparisons and the cost/benefit factors involved.
2. The Working Group should use as background information
 - (a) the study prepared for the ACABQ on budget presentation in the United Nations system;
 - (b) any report on programming and budgets in the United Nations family of organizations that may be issued by the Joint Inspection Unit;
 - (c) the work already done in connexion with the programme headings for the ACC reports to ECOSOC on expenditures as related to programmes;
 - (d) any list of programme headings that may be put forward by the Preparatory Committee of ACC following its consideration of the list now being proposed by the ACC Secretariat;

/...

- (e) to the extent it is relevant to the problem, the Joint Inspection Unit report on the overhead costs of extra-budgetary programmes (JIU/REP/69/2);
- (f) any other relevant data and information.

3. The aim of the Working Group should be to produce a comprehensive document in time for consideration by CCAQ next Spring.

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CO-ORDINATION/R.780
16 October 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Forty-ninth session
22 October 1969
New York

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- A. Adoption of the agenda
- B. Consultations on current developments and problems

Matters to be considered under this item include the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, regarding which information is provided in the report of the Preparatory Committee (CO-ORDINATION/R.782, paragraphs 4-5).

- C. Intergovernmental and inter-secretariat machinery for co-ordination, including preparations for the resumed ACC/CFC Joint Meetings

The Preparatory Committee's report contains the necessary background information with regard to this item (CO-ORDINATION/R.782, paragraphs 6-19).

- D. Other matters in the report of the Preparatory Committee requiring ACC's attention (CO-ORDINATION/R.782)

These matters include:

- (1) Second United Nations Development Decade (paragraphs 20-21)
- (2) Youth (paragraphs 22-26)
- (3) Human environment (paragraphs 27-28)
- (4) Report of the special session of CCAQ (paragraphs 29-31)
- (5) Matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit (paragraphs 32-33)
- (6) Computers (paragraph 34)
- (7) Date and place of the next session of ACC (paragraphs 35-36)

Note: Matters that have been dealt with by the Preparatory Committee are covered in part II of the Committee's report and may be considered by the ACC only if any member feels that such consideration is necessary.

- E. Any other matters.

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CO-ORDINATION/R.782
16 October 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Forty-ninth session

REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

Sixty-third session

Contents

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 3
I. MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF ACC	4 - 36
(1) Twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations	4 - 5
(2) Review of the functioning of inter-agency machinery for co-ordination	6 - 12
(3) Recommendations of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination	13 - 15
(4) Preparations for the resumed Joint Meetings	16 - 19
(5) Second United Nations Development Decade	20 - 21
(6) Youth	22 - 26
(7) Human environment	27 - 28
(8) Report of the special session of CCAQ	29 - 31
(9) Questions concerning the Joint Inspection Unit	32 - 33
(10) Computers	34
(11) Date and place of the next session of ACC, of the Preparatory Committee and of ACC subsidiary bodies	35 - 36

Contents (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
II. MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE	
(1) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	37 - 38
(2) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination	39 - 40
(3) Water resources	41 - 42
(4) Science and technology	43 - 44
(5) Tourism	45
(6) Population questions	46
(7) International action to meet natural disasters	47
(8) Analytical reports to the Council by the specialized agencies and the IAEA	48

/...

INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Committee met at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9-16 October 1969 and as a result of its consideration of the various items contained in the provisional agenda (CO-ORDINATION/R.758/Rev.2), it is now submitting to the ACC a draft agenda bringing out matters dealt with in the present report which seem to require the ACC's attention (CO-ORDINATION/R.780). These matters are covered in Part I of the present report while questions which have been dealt with by the Preparatory Committee are contained in Part II.
2. It is again proposed that ACC should not issue a report in connexion with its October session but that members should be authorized to refer at their discretion to the ACC's discussions and conclusions in reporting to their legislative and governing organs.
3. A list of participants will be circulated in an addendum to the present report.

/...

I. MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF ACC

(1) Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations (item 2)

4. The United Nations Chef de Cabinet provided the Committee with information regarding the plans for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in 1970 which, it was hoped, would serve as an occasion for all Member States to reaffirm their dedication to the objectives of the Organization. A primary objective of the activities, which would revolve around the theme of "peace and progress", was to strengthen the United Nations and increase its effectiveness. Thus, those United Nations bodies which had before them such unresolved questions as arrangements for the Second Development Decade, peace-keeping operations, disarmament and decolonization, would be requested to contribute material for a final declaration or declarations which were expected to delineate the major unsolved tasks of the Organization for the 1970s. The General Assembly would hold a commemorative session culminating on 24 October 1970 in which the participation of Heads of State and Government would be encouraged wherever possible. The Committee for the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary would, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, co-ordinate the preparation of a suitable text for this purpose. The summer session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva would open with a ceremonial meeting, at which one of the executive heads of the specialized agencies would be invited to make a statement on behalf of the agencies. Among other programmes, there would be a Youth Assembly, to be held in New York in July 1970. The specialized agencies would be invited to take note of the anniversary and to take whatever action they considered appropriate.

5. Questions were raised by the representatives of the agencies, particularly with regard to the financing and organization of the Youth Assembly, as well as the criteria for representation. It was pointed out that the present plan to invite only participants from Member States of the United Nations might create difficulties for the full participation of the agencies having different memberships.

/...

(2) Review and functioning of interagency machinery for co-ordination (Item 4)

Follow-up of ACC decisions at its forty-seventh session

6. The ACC will no doubt wish to review this matter itself, and for convenience of reference, the texts of Chapter I of ACC's last report to the Economic and Social Council (E/4668) and paragraphs 8-13 of the "Summary of Results" of that session (CO-ORDINATION/R.751) are annexed hereto (see annexes I and II).

7. It is understood that the Secretary-General will inform the ACC orally on the implementation of the decisions involving his direct responsibility. The Preparatory Committee has attempted to limit the number of questions being brought up to ACC by "disposing of all interagency business not requiring specific consideration and decision by the executive heads themselves."

8. On the other hand, the implementation of several decisions has been delayed for various reasons, among them the fact that the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs is unable to undertake many of the functions assigned to it until its staff has been increased.

Pending suggestions for improving the functioning of ACC

9. These again are matters for consideration at the ACC level. The proposals of the Directors-General of IAEA and WMO and of the Director-General of FAO have been circulated in documents CO-ORDINATION/R.774 and CO-ORDINATION/R.777 respectively.

Review of ACC subsidiary bodies

10. The Preparatory Committee has held a preliminary discussion with regard to the subsidiary machinery of ACC and plans to devote much of the second part of its session to this matter.

11. The views of many organizations have only just been made available in document CO-ORDINATION/R.765 and Add.1-9, while those of some others have yet to be received. Some of the replies raised general issues with far-reaching

/...

ramifications, which did not lend themselves to hasty decision; these included, for example, the extent to which - and the cases in which - subsidiary organs need continue to report to ACC on technical questions and the way in which future programmes, particularly in cross-sectoral areas that are important from the standpoint of policy, could be reviewed on a joint basis. It was also pointed out that the role to be played by the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs in future would affect the decisions to be reached with regard to some of the subsidiary bodies, and that that role depended to a great extent on what additional staff was made available to it.

12. The Preparatory Committee therefore expects, later in the session, to go into these general issues and also the situation with respect to each of the subsidiary bodies. It would also take whatever decisions are needed on a provisional basis for the rest of 1969 and early 1970. At its next session in April 1970, the Preparatory Committee would propose to set aside a couple of days to complete this task in the light also of further views and suggestions that may be received meanwhile and to prepare for the ACC a comprehensive series of recommendations with regard to the arrangements for subsidiary bodies.

(3) Recommendations of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and co-ordination (Item 6)

13. With reference to Recommendation A of the ECPC for the establishment of a reconstituted CPC (E/4748, paras. 20-36), the Preparatory Committee wishes to draw ACC's attention, in particular, to the following points:

(a) It is provided that the Committee "would work in close collaboration with ACC";

(b) The provisions with regard to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit have been brought into alignment with the agreement reached at the Joint Meetings in July 1969;

/...

(c) While, subject to the Council's authorization, the Committee would be empowered to communicate its views directly to the agencies with respect to any matters coming within its terms of reference, formal recommendations would be submitted through the Economic and Social Council;

(d) The terms of reference, while not entirely clear, seem to indicate that the CPC would not duplicate the programme-reviewing functions vested in the governing and legislative organs of the agencies;

(e) The requirements of the new committee for information on agency programmes and evaluation studies are set in rather broad terms.

14. The new text as a whole seems to provide the basis for a workable compromise, and ACC may wish to convey to CPC its readiness to co-operate closely with the reconstituted committee when established on the lines proposed.

15. None of the other recommendations of the ECPC would appear to require ACC's attention at the present time.

(4) Preparations for the resumed joint meetings (Item 5)

16. Great importance was attached to the Secretary-General making an introductory statement as the Chairman of ACC, at the opening of the Joint Meeting. This statement would reply to certain questions raised by members of the CPC last June with regard to the agreements reached by the ACC in April and would seek to clarify the role of the ACC in co-operating with and assisting the policy-making and programme-formulating organs of the United Nations system. It was also hoped that other members of ACC would participate fully in the discussion.

17. It would not seem advisable at this stage to raise questions of detail concerning the ECPC's recommendation for a reconstituted CPC. However, it should be made clear that members of ACC shared the Committee's hope "that a sound basis for closer and more effective consultation in the future has now been laid." The importance of having adequate procedural arrangements for this

/...

purpose in all intergovernmental organs, including the General Assembly (such as the adoption of a rule similar to Rule 80 of the Economic and Social Council), and the readiness of executive heads to bring the provisions for a reconstituted CPC to the attention of their governing and legislative organs might also be indicated.

18. The Secretariat's note on the mandate, subsidiary machinery and present staff of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/AC.51/35) which will be before the Joint Meetings is being reissued in slightly revised form.

19. A further item on the agenda will be the periodicity of the Joint Meetings; it has been suggested by the Economic and Social Council secretariat that the Joint Meetings should be held every two years, while the Council, in resolution 1459 (XLVII) recommended that "the practice of holding Joint Meetings... should be pursued". The ACC has never taken a position on this matter and the Preparatory Committee recommends that it should comply with the wishes of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in this respect.

(5) Seccond United Nations Development Decade (Item 3)

20. The representative of UNCTAD provided the Preparatory Committee with explanations on resolution 63 (IX), adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its resumed ninth session, regarding special measures in favour of the least developed among the developing countries. He stated that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD proposed to raise the question in ACC, both with regard to the possibility of enlisting the co-operation of the agencies in studies called for in operative paragraph 1, and in order to hold consultations as to how the wider questions raised in paragraphs 2 and 3 should be treated in the General Assembly and what positions the agencies would take if and when the General Assembly sought their views on the matter. The resolution would not be formally transmitted to the agencies but the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would indicate what forms of co-operation with the agencies he considered would be most useful.

21. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs provided the Committee with information on recent developments in the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and clarified a number of points in order to make the forthcoming meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on the Second United Nations Development Decade more fruitful. He recalled that the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade had requested the agencies to submit, by November 1969, statements on the key strategic objectives in their areas of competence, including goals expressed in quantitative or qualitative terms as appropriate, which could be used in preparing the preliminary framework of international strategy. At the forthcoming meeting the Sub-Committee would discuss the submission of these objectives as well as the question of the reconciliation of basic assumptions for growth rate targets. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General suggested that the contributions to be provided by the organizations - at the request of the Preparatory Committee - on targets, objectives and policies, should be in a form which the Preparatory Committee could consider for inclusion in its report and should therefore be as brief as possible. The Committee agreed that there was an increasingly urgent need for feed-back of information from the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, in particular it might comment on contributions received from the specialized agencies and suggest what changes might be made in future contributions.

(6) Youth (Item 9)

22. The Committee considered the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Youth and expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved at the Meeting, and with the quality of the report presented.

23. The Preparatory Committee took note of the main conclusions of the report and in particular its sections concerning participation of young people in meetings and other activities of the United Nations organizations, and those dealing with the procedures to be followed for the planning of joint interagency missions and interagency projects in selected countries and with the role to be played in this connexion by the interagency liaison officer.

/...

24. The Committee endorsed the agreement reached at the Meeting regarding the publication of a series of popular style booklets about various aspects of youth action in development; it also concurred with the recommendation that the ACC Working Group on Rural and Community Development should be invited to include in its agenda, at a future meeting, a discussion on the strategy of youth work within an integrated rural development.

25. With reference to the international meeting in 1971 on the participation of youth in the Second Development Decade, which is included in the work programme of the Commission for Social Development, as endorsed by the Council, the Committee suggests that, while there is strong support for the meeting among international youth organizations, more information is needed on the impact that the meeting could in fact have for the solution of the problems in question. It was agreed that the timing of the meeting should also be carefully considered, especially in relation to the timing of the Youth Assembly scheduled for July 1970.

26. Finally, regarding arrangements for the preparation of the analytical study in depth of the world situation of youth, it was decided to postpone consideration of the matter until after the ACC's session, as decisions which it might take on the question of the high level team and related matters might have relevance on the arrangements to be worked out. In this connexion, the Preparatory Committee wishes to draw attention to the over-all picture of the activities being undertaken in the field of youth by the organizations of the United Nations system contained in the Ad Hoc meeting's report (CO-ORDINATION/R.759/Add.1).

(7) Human environment

27. The Preparatory Committee held a preliminary discussion on the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, preparations for which cannot begin until the General Assembly has approved the financial and organizational arrangements. The Director for Science and Technology expressed the hope that the interested agencies would second staff to assist in the preparatory work of the Conference and also to act as consultants in selecting authors for papers. Representatives of many agencies pledged the full support of their organizations in this work. It was agreed that, at least for the time being, the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology was in the best position to co-ordinate

/...

activities relating to the Conference and should consider the question when it met in the spring; the other subsidiary bodies concerned should also follow the preparations closely - bearing in mind that all aspects of the human environment are involved. The United Nations undertook to inform the agencies as soon as possible what contribution - both in terms of secondment of staff and of substantive work - would be requested from them.

28. The representative of WMO said that his organization was very much concerned with the co-ordination of programmes in the field of the human environment, and felt that a separate ACC subsidiary body might eventually be needed.

(8) Report of the special session of CCAQ (Item 12)

29. There are two matters covered in the report of CCAQ (CO-ORDINATION/R.762) which require ACC's approval at this stage. The first follows from the CCAQ's review of the study "Budget Presentation in the United Nations system" which had been prepared by a consultant for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. CCAQ feels that the following three conclusions in this study could be accepted without further discussion:

(a) That at present the adoption by all agencies of a uniform budget presentation is not feasible;

(b) That a final conclusion as to the feasibility of such a move can only be reached after much further study; and

(c) That it does appear feasible, however, for the agencies to produce information about their budgets which is compatible.

30. CCAQ has set up a working group to consider in detail the programme classifications and compatible budget presentations proposed in the ACABQ study. A draft letter from the Chairman of ACC informing the Chairman of ACABQ of ACC's endorsement of these developments has been annexed to the present report (see annex III, below). At the second part of its session, the Preparatory Committee will consider a list of programme headings which according to agreed arrangements will then be transmitted to the working group of CCAQ.

31. Secondly, the Joint Inspection Unit's budget for 1971 and the supplementary estimates for 1970 needs ACC approval. CCAQ recommends such approval and the details regarding its budget and supplementary estimates will be found in annex D of CO-ORDINATION/R.762.

(9) Questions concerning the Joint Inspection Unit (Item 20)

32. The Committee had before it a note by the ACC secretariat (CO-ORDINATION/R.769) proposing - particularly in view of the new time limits resulting from the ACC/CPC consensus - a simplified procedure for interagency consultation on proposed comments on Inspectors' reports affecting several or all organizations. In accordance with this procedure each executive head, before submitting his comments to his Executive Board, would circulate a draft of his comments to the heads of other interested organizations and to the ACC secretariat. After a period, related to the urgency of the matter, he would make his submission. There would be no attempt to reach a consensus in all cases, but each organization head would have the opportunity to advise the heads of other organizations of difficulties arising from their comments, and would have the benefit of their ideas in formulating his own submission.

33. It was felt that situations might occasionally arise where simple submission and exchange of comments were not sufficient; divergencies on important points of principle might make consultations necessary and some aspects would require longer time for study in depth. In such cases, any executive head would give notice to the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, which would arrange for immediate consultations or the organization of a study in depth. Subject to these reservations, the Committee agreed that the simplified procedure as proposed in the document should be given a year's trial.

10. Computers (Item 21)

34. The Committee was informed of the intention of the Directors-General of ILO and WHO to propose that the ACC request the Secretary-General to arrange for the study of the Auditor General of Canada on the management study of United Nations electronic data processing facilities and operations, to be extended to the specialized agencies located "in or within technically and economically feasible computer linking distances of Geneva". It was felt that the aims of the proposed second phase of the study should be carefully studied and clearly defined, taking into account the studies now being undertaken in connexion with the UNDP Capacity Study. The financing of the proposed study would also require consideration. One representative stated that his agency, although not located in Geneva, might wish to be included in any further study, and that various possibilities were open for ACC as regards preparation of such a study.

11. Date and place of the next session of ACC, of the Preparatory Committee, and of ACC subsidiary bodies (Item 13)

35. While it was impossible to find a date which would be equally convenient to all agencies, the Preparatory Committee suggests that the most appropriate date for the ACC's spring session would be 23-24²⁵ April 1970, preceded by a session of the Preparatory Committee on 6-14 April - both sessions to take place in Geneva. Some extra time may be needed at this session of the Preparatory Committee in order to complete the review of the subsidiary bodies.

/...

36. While the draft calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1969 and the first half of 1970 has been circulated in CO-ORDINATION/R.766, the Preparatory Committee will finalize the calendar in the light of the discussions on subsidiary bodies which are to take place immediately following the ACC's session.

II. MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

(1) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

37. The Preparatory Committee discussed the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1450 (XLVII) and the resolution recently adopted by the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/345) - both relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The representative of the United Nations clarified a number of points, and gave the undertaking that supplementary information relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies that was received by the United Nations before the end of October would be included in the Special Committee's report on the question to the General Assembly.

38. Members of the Committee were given an opportunity to check and supplement a draft of the report being prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII), operative paragraph 8 (a). It was agreed that this draft should be somewhat revised in the light of comments made by representatives of the agencies.

(2) Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

39. The representative of the United Nations provided information on the Secretary-General's suggestions for the programme for the celebration in 1971 of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in document A/7649. He drew attention in particular to suggestion E, relating to activities which might be carried out by the specialized agencies whose work has bearing on the promotion of respect for human rights, and to the suggestion that the Secretary-General might be requested to co-ordinate all activities undertaken in connexion with the Year.

40. A number of representatives stated that their agencies were prepared to co-operate fully, but wished first to study the Secretary-General's suggestions.

/...

(3) Water resources (Item 7)

41. The Preparatory Committee welcomed the report of the Sub-Committee on Water Resources (CO-ORDINATION/R.760) and endorsed the conclusions contained therein. It expressed great satisfaction over the progress that had been made in finding solutions to the problems which had arisen in this field, particularly the clarification of the role of the Water Development Centre. It looked forward to receiving the results of the Sub-Committee's forthcoming studies of co-ordination of operational responsibilities regarding UNDP/SF projects (paragraph 100) and of policy guidelines in the field of water resources (paragraph 105), and expressed the hope that the Sub-Committee would continue to review the institutional arrangements for work in this field at each future meeting.

42. The Committee suggests that the ACC may incorporate the substance of the conclusions of the meeting in its thirty-sixth report. It also decided to attach this material to the record of decisions of its present session.

(4) Science and technology (Item 19)

43. The Director for Science and Technology provided information on the arrangements envisaged for the preparation of the report called for under Council resolution 1454 (XLVII) and Recommendation C of the Enlarged Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/4748, paras. 43-65): the United Nations would write to the agencies in October, setting out the general framework of the report and outlining the problems involved, and requesting the views of the agencies; the views of the Advisory Committee would be ascertained at its twelfth session in November; then, in early December, the consultant who was to prepare the report would visit the agencies' headquarters for detailed consultations; early in the new year there would be further interagency consultation.

44. Members of the Committee urged that there should be close consultations throughout the preparation of the report, particularly during the early and later stages. It was agreed that meetings of the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology on substantive matters need not necessarily be linked with those of the Advisory Committee: the Sub-Committee might well meet before the Advisory Committee if that proved desirable. Questions were asked regarding the nature

/...

of co-ordination problems at the secretarial level, as well as regarding the definition of the transfer of technology with respect to training. The Director for Science and Technology expressed the hope that early discussions with the agencies would bring out any problems that did exist. It was agreed that the final draft would be available for discussion by ACC itself when it meets towards the end of April.

(5) Tourism (Item 10)

45. The representative of the United Nations provided information on the report being prepared in pursuance of Council resolution 1449 (XLVII) - which would consist mainly of an introduction, sections on the constitutional and organizational alternatives (including their advantages and disadvantages and financial implications) for establishing an intergovernmental organization in this field, as well as factual information regarding IUOTO. In response to questions raised by representatives of the agencies, he assured the Committee that the report would bring out the importance of avoiding duplication with existing activities in any new arrangements that were made in this field. Members of the Committee expressed the hope that it would be possible for them to see the text of the report before it was submitted to the Council. It was agreed that interested members of the Committee would be shown the text on an informal basis.

(6) Population questions (Item 8)

46. The Committee was informed that the draft report on the world population problem, to be presented in November to ACAST as an interagency undertaking, is now proceeding satisfactorily.

(7) International action to meet natural disasters (Item 17)

47. The Preparatory Committee considered the note prepared by the ACC secretariat (CO-ORDINATION/R.771) and held a brief discussion of the type of contribution that the agencies could best make to the interim report that was to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council in 1970, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2435 (XXIII). It was

/...

agreed that the ACC secretariat would send members of the Preparatory Committee an outline indicating the nature of the contributions that seemed to be required.

(8) Analytical reports to the Council by the specialized agencies and the IAEA

48. The Committee agreed that the suggestions submitted by the secretariat in CO-ORDINATION/R.768 for standardizing the information being submitted by the agencies in the analytical summaries of their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council should be used as a guide in the preparation of these summaries.

/...

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

CHAPTER I OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF ACC (E/4668)

I. REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF INTERSECRETARIAT
MACHINERY FOR CO-ORDINATION

16. The main task of the ACC is to identify, for the benefit of the Council and the governing bodies of the organizations concerned, the major problems that confront the United Nations system of organizations, and collectively to tender advice on the manner in which its resources should be used to resolve such problems in a constructive manner. To this end, the members of ACC would devote major attention to a limited number of key policy issues and, in order to ensure that ACC is enabled to discharge effectively its major functions, they have agreed on the following practical arrangements:

I

(a) It was generally agreed that the secretariat of ACC, under the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs, should function under the direct authority of the Secretary-General, reporting directly to him.

(b) It was also agreed that the responsibilities of the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs should be enlarged.^{1/}

(c) It was further agreed that the Office should have a larger staff, both at New York and at Geneva, and additional travel funds as necessary.

^{1/} These responsibilities should include the preparation of the basic documentation for, and proposals for action by, the Preparatory Committee and ACC, as well as documentation as required for intergovernmental organs, the maintenance of direct and close relations with the executive heads and senior officials of all organizations; the follow-up of ACC decisions; the exercise of initiative at the Secretariat level in regard to inter-agency problems; guidance to ACC subsidiary organs; as well as following closely developments in the organs of the United Nations and the agencies that might affect interagency relations and co-ordination.

(d) On the question of financing, it was generally agreed that the Secretary-General should discuss with the Controller and with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions the possibility of the additional expenditure being met entirely from the budget of the United Nations. If this were not found feasible, the offer of the agencies to contribute towards the expenses of the Office would be duly considered.

II

(a) With the enlargement of the ACC secretariat, it should be possible to settle by correspondence or other means many of the questions that now take up the time of the Preparatory Committee so that the duration of Preparatory Committee meetings could be shortened to approximately one week.

(b) At the same time, it was generally agreed that the Preparatory Committee should have greater authority, and that all ACC's subsidiary bodies, including the Consultative Committees on Administrative Questions and Public Information, should report to it.

(c) The ACC may decide that certain questions, or reports, may go straight to ACC for consideration. Subject to this understanding the Preparatory Committee should be in a position to deal definitively with problems of "management", and with all other issues except those which it was essential for ACC itself to consider, or on which there might be disagreement at the Preparatory Committee.

(Foot-note 1/ continued from previous page)

Special importance should be attached to the preparation of the actual work of ACC. This includes, first, the preparation of concise but detailed position papers, including a preliminary indication of major issues to be discussed and even, where appropriate, tentative solutions. Secondly, on major issues, it would be desirable for the ACC secretariat, when requested by ACC, to undertake, with the co-operation of participating organizations, independent major studies for the information and guidance of ACC on questions it would wish to consider in depth, and in respect of which compilation of agency activities and positions constitutes only a preliminary step.

/...

(d) The level of representation on the Preparatory Committee would be raised in principle to the Deputy Director-General or Assistant Director-General level on the understanding that any head of an agency could designate a duly authorized official of a lower rank to represent him at the Preparatory Committee meetings if necessary.

III

The annual address of the Secretary-General before the summer session of the Council should also include, as a separate section, a presentation of the substantive work of ACC and of those issues of policy on which ACC had reached prior agreement.

ANNEX II

EXTRACT FROM THE SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE ACC'S FORTY-SEVENTH
SESSION AND THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE'S SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
(CO-ORDINATION/R.751, PARAGRAPHS 8-13)

II. GENERAL CO-ORDINATION QUESTIONS

Review and functioning of interagency machinery for co-ordination

8. The ACC approved paragraphs 18-45 of the report of the Preparatory Committee (CO-ORDINATION/R.749). As regards the organization and functioning of ACC meetings, it agreed that:

(a) In addition to the customary two-day ACC meeting in the spring and a short meeting in the autumn, there should be a short meeting in July, in conjunction with the joint meetings with CFC.

(b) Items of business which do not require action by the ACC itself, and reports of subsidiary organs, unless they pose policy problems on which ACC itself should decide, should normally be dealt with finally by the Preparatory Committee and not appear on the agenda of ACC meetings.

(c) Fuller opportunity should be provided for well-prepared discussion in depth at ACC meetings of one or more major tasks or problems of the United Nations system.

(d) Consultations among a limited number of organizations on issues of special interest to them only should be encouraged. The ACC itself might periodically identify such areas, and should be kept informed of the group consultations undertaken, its secretariat being available to provide such assistance as might be required.

(e) Further suggestions which were made by some members of the ACC regarding the role ACC should play to give positive leadership with respect to selected subjects of major importance to economic and social development would be considered at the July meeting of ACC.

(f) Since the ACC is to devote major attention to a limited number of key policy issues, its report should, in part at least, be drafted after the meeting by the ACC secretariat in co-operation, when appropriate, with the Preparatory Committee.

/...

9. As regards the functioning of the Preparatory Committee,

(a) The Preparatory Committee should make full use of its authority to dispose of all current interagency business not requiring specific consideration and decision by the executive heads themselves, to refer matters to subsidiary bodies for consideration and receive their reports, and to speak and act in the name of ACC on matters coming within the Committee's purview.

(b) The problem of decisions in intergovernmental organs of different organizations that might lead to duplication or divergent action should be kept under constant attention by members of the Preparatory Committee, and any problems in this connexion placed on the Committee's agenda. If necessary, ACC could discuss at the joint meeting with CPC any important potential sources of difficulty.

(c) All decisions of the Preparatory Committee should be clearly recorded in order to ensure proper follow-up, and the ACC secretariat should continue to convey such decisions formally to subsidiary organs.

(d) Members of the Preparatory Committee should, through direct contacts with the representatives of their own agencies on the technical sub-committees, seek to anticipate and minimize cases where views put forward by an agency's officials at two different levels are at variance.

10. As regards the staff work for ACC:

(A) The Assistant Secretary-General for Inter-Agency Affairs and the ACC secretariat should be enabled - through the necessary strengthening of the staff - to carry out the arrangements laid down by the ACC in 1967. Their responsibilities include the preparation of the basic documentation for, and proposals for action by, the Preparatory Committee and the ACC, as well as documentation as required for intergovernmental organs; the maintenance of direct and close relations with the executive heads and senior officials of all organizations; the follow-up of ACC decisions; the exercise of initiative at the secretariat level in regard to interagency problems; guidance to subsidiary organs; as well as following, and where necessary intervening, in connexion with developments in the organs of the United Nations and the agencies that might affect interagency relations and co-ordination.

(b) They should attach special importance to the preparation of the actual work of ACC. This includes, first, the preparation of concise but detailed position papers, including a preliminary indication of major issues to be discussed and even, where appropriate, tentative solutions. This would allow of earlier and fuller internal consultations, and relieve the participating organizations from the burden of preparing individually historical background material which can be provided more economically on a central basis. Secondly, when requested by ACC, the ACC secretariat should undertake, with the co-operation of participating organizations, independent studies on major issues that the ACC might wish to consider in depth, and in respect of which compilation of agency activities and positions constitutes only a preliminary step.

11. Each body reporting to ACC should identify the issues on which policy decisions are required, attempt to put forward agreed solutions (with an indication of the nature of any compromise so reached) or alternative solutions with an indication of the merits of each.

12. As regards the review of ACC subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings,

(a) Full consultations would be held, including internal consultations within the various organizations, in order to carry out a serious evaluation of the continued need for individual subsidiary bodies and of any changes or clarifications which may be needed in their mandates, and to explore ways of making the meetings of these bodies and ad hoc meetings as productive as possible in terms of concrete results;

(b) Each member of the Preparatory Committee would inform the ACC secretariat as soon as possible of the outcome of these internal consultations, and this information would be circulated well in advance of the October session of the Preparatory Committee;

(c) Two days would be set aside at that session to consider the need for and the mandate of, the various existing subsidiary organs, and also how far it may be feasible to reduce the frequency of meetings and to merge certain subsidiary bodies, or to replace them by occasional ad hoc meetings;

/...

(d) Particular attention would be paid to regional interagency arrangements and their relations to arrangements among agency headquarters.

13. The Preparatory Committee concurred in general with the ACC secretariat's suggestions for improvements and economies in the functioning of subsidiary organs. It asked the ACC secretariat to begin implementation at once, in so far as it is involved, particularly to assist as fully as possible in organizing the meetings and in enabling the reports to be presented in the form best adapted to their intended purpose. The ACC secretariat was also asked to circulate to all agencies certain proposals which had been put forward during the meeting.

ANNEX III

DRAFT LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN OF ACC TO CHAIRMAN OF ACABQ

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The study on Budget Preparation in the United Nations System which was prepared for the Advisory Committee and sent to the executive heads of the organizations for their comments, was discussed at a special session of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) held in Geneva on 16-19 September 1969.

ACC has now approved the preliminary recommendations and views it has received from CCAQ on this question, and in particular the following three conclusions contained in the ACABQ study:

- (1) That at present the adoption by all agencies of a uniform budget presentation is not feasible;
- (2) That a final conclusion as to the feasibility of such a move can only be reached after much further study; and
- (3) That it does appear feasible, however, for the agencies to produce information about their budgets which is compatible.

I have pleasure in enclosing, for the information of your Committee, a copy of the relevant paragraphs and annex of the CCAQ report.

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

Appendix

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CCAQ WORKING GROUP ON PROGRAMME
AND BUDGET PRESENTATION IN THE UN SYSTEM

(Text of the relevant Annex of the CCAQ report)

1. The Working Group should consider and report on
 - (i) the development of an improved framework for a consolidated presentation of past, current and planned future expenditures by the UN family of organizations under all sources of funds;
 - (ii) the extent to which this framework could be used
 - (a) for preparation and submission of the programme and budget of each organization;
 - (b) for the preparation of information annexes to such programmes and budgets in a compatible form;
 - (iii) any major problems that may be involved in developing such a common framework, including problems of (a) cost and workload; and (b) time-table, with indications or advice as to the possible solution of such problems;
 - (iv) the practical possibilities of using such a common presentation for interagency comparisons and the cost/benefit factors involved.
2. The Working Group should use as background information
 - (a) the study prepared for the ACABQ on budget presentation in the United Nations system;
 - (b) any report on programming and budgets in the United Nations family of organizations that may be issued by the Joint Inspection Unit;
 - (c) the work already done in connexion with the programme headings for the ACC reports to ECOSOC on expenditures as related to programmes;
 - (d) any list of programme headings that may be put forward by the Preparatory Committee of ACC following its consideration of the list now being proposed by the ACC Secretariat;

/...

- (e) to the extent it is relevant to the problem, the Joint Inspection Unit report on the overhead costs of extra-budgetary programmes (JIU/REP/69/2);
- (f) any other relevant data and information.

3. The aim of the Working Group should be to produce a comprehensive document in time for consideration by CCAQ next Spring.

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CC-ORDINATION/R.778
15 October 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Forty-ninth session

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
Sixty-third session

STAFF CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

Note by the ACC Secretariat

1. In May 1969, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, responding to a request of the Chairman of the Staff Committee of the United Nations at Headquarters, received a group of representatives of staff associations in the United Nations common system who were on a visit to New York. In the course of the interview the group raised a number of questions relating to the procedure of consultation between administrations and staff representatives at the interagency level. The group stressed the importance it attached to the arrangements for making the views of the staff known to all bodies dealing with matters of concern to the staff of the common system as a whole and referred, in particular, to the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Since the Advisory Committee's recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly in regard to conditions of employment were of such concern, the group asked the Secretary-General to support its effort to obtain a hearing for the staff representatives whenever the Advisory Committee considered matters affecting the staff of all organizations.
2. The matter was followed up with an exchange of letters which are reproduced in the annex to this note at the request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. It is suggested that the matter be referred to the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) for its consideration and report before ACC's session in April 1970.

ANNEX I

A. Letter dated 28 May 1969 from the Chairman of the United Nations Staff Committee to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Executive Committee of FICSA, and in particular of the members of the FICSA delegation to the XVIIth session of ICSAB, I should like to express to you our deep gratitude for your having given us the opportunity to meet with you, as well as with Messrs. Narasimhan, Stark and Sloane, for a general exchange of views on the development of management/staff relations at the interagency level.

As was indicated by the members of our delegation, we believe it to be in the common interest of organizations and staff to improve existing channels of communication and, when necessary, to establish new ones, so that the views of the staff may be fully known to all bodies dealing with questions relating to conditions of employment before they make recommendations or take decisions. It was precisely for this purpose that the last FICSA Council decided to establish a permanent office at United Nations Headquarters, where many decisions affecting the staff of the whole common system are taken; it was also for this purpose that the FICSA Executive Committee instructed me to seek the opportunity of presenting staff views to ACABQ.

Though ACABQ is an organ of the United Nations General Assembly, its recommendations on staff matters are not restricted to the United Nations; some of them subsequently apply directly to international civil servants throughout the common system. FICSA therefore believes it to be essential that it be able to appear before ACABQ in order to submit staff views whenever that body is considering matters affecting the staff of the whole common system.

I should very much appreciate having your support in this respect.

(Signed) A. TAMIR
President

/... .

B. Letter dated 16 June 1969 from the Secretary-General
to the Chairman of ACABQ

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter dated 28 May addressed
to me by Mr. A. Tamir, President of FICSA, who is also the Chairman
of the Staff Committee of the United Nations Secretariat.

I shall be grateful if you could discuss this matter with your
colleagues and advise me on the lines along which a reply might be
sent to Mr. Tamir.

With kind regards,

(Signed) U THANT

C. Interim reply dated 18 June 1969 from the Chairman of
ACABQ to the Secretary-General

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16 June 1969
enclosing a copy of a letter dated 28 May addressed to you by the
President of FICSA on the subject of appearances by that Association
before the Advisory Committee.

I have brought your letter to the attention of my colleagues
on the Advisory Committee, and shall write to you on the substance of
the matter as soon as the Committee has given it the full consideration
it deserves.

(Signed) Jan P. BANNIER
Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

/...

D. Letter dated 21 August 1969 from the Chairman of
ACABQ to the Secretary-General

I should like to refer to my letter of 18 June in reply to your letter of 16 June 1969 on the subject of the request by FICSA to appear before the Advisory Committee. The need for the Committee to complete its examination of the 1970 budget estimates and other matters prevented it from giving earlier consideration to your request for advice.

The right of staff representatives to be heard before the Advisory Committee goes back to General Assembly resolution 14 A (I) of 13 February 1946 which laid down the functions of the Advisory Committee. The relevant passages read as follows:

"The permanent budgetary and financial arrangements of the United Nations should be so designed as to promote efficient and economical administration and command the confidence of Members.

Therefore the General Assembly resolves that:

....

2. To facilitate the consideration of the administrative and budgetary questions by the General Assembly and its Administrative and Budgetary Committee, there be appointed at the beginning of the second part of the first session of the General Assembly, an Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with the following functions:

(a) to examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;

(b) to advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it;

(c) to examine on behalf of the General Assembly the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies;

(d) to consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

/...

The Committee shall deal with personnel matters only in their budgetary aspects, and representatives of the staff shall have the right to be heard by the Committee."

Resolution 14 A (I) antedates other actions by the General Assembly designed to ensure that the staff are given the necessary opportunities for stating their viewpoints. The Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and, mutatis mutandis, of the specialized agencies contain provisions governing consultations with staff representatives. Arrangements also have been worked out for the submission of staff views to interagency advisory and consultative bodies such as ICSAB and CCAQ.

The existence of such machinery for considering the views of the staff at various levels clearly indicates a desire by the General Assembly and the corresponding organs of the specialized agencies that as many staff problems as possible should be solved in the course of talks between management and staff. This presupposed that a genuine effort will be made both by the staff and the respective Executive Heads to arrive at a generally acceptable solution on the basis of an objective analysis of factual data. Hence access to legislative bodies is to be regarded as an exceptional procedure.

The Advisory Committee is of course ready to grant a hearing to staff representatives under the terms of General Assembly resolution 14 A (I), provided it is clearly understood that the testimony is to relate directly to administrative and budgetary questions to be considered by the General Assembly, and that the Committee is not a Court of Appeal from recommendations by the expert bodies concerned, nor an instrument for arbitrating unresolved issues.

With regard to the request by FICSA to appear before the Advisory Committee, the Members are of the view that this matter should first be the subject of consultations between the members of the United Nations family of organizations. In expressing this view, the

/...

Committee had in mind the fact that FICSA's interests relate to matters affecting the common system and are therefore of concern to all participating organizations. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee would prefer to await the considered views of the Executive Heads on their joint relationship with FICSA before expressing itself as to the possibility of establishing a direct link between the Federation and the Committee.

(Signed) Jan P. BANNIER
Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CO-ORDINATION/R.777
14 October 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Forty-ninth session

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
Sixty-third session
Item 4 (b) of the agenda

REVIEW AND FUNCTIONING OF INTER-AGENCY MACHINERY FOR CO-ORDINATION:
PENDING SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ACC

Note by the ACC secretariat

The present document contains notes which were submitted to ACC by the
Director-General of FAO.

Note by the Director-General of FAO

1. By providing a point of contact among the organizations of the United Nations family at top executive level, the ACC has come to play a central role in promoting co-ordination and co-operation among the activities of the members of the United Nations system. With the expansion of the system through the creation of new programmes, organizations and other autonomous bodies, the number of participants in the ACC meetings has increased considerably in recent years.
2. The ACC functions through a number of subject-matter Standing Committees, ad hoc Working Groups and a Preparatory Committee which examines and puts together the recommendations from the Standing Committees and prepares a draft report for consideration by the ACC. The two-day meetings of the ACC, twice a year, have remained important, but the basic negotiations and even a large proportion of the agreements "through the ACC" tend to be reached more and more through the ACC's numerous staff Sub-Committees and the PrepCom.
3. There has been a growing feeling of frustration among members of the ACC and even of governmental delegations owing to the fact that, in the rapidly changing circumstances we find in the world of today, the ACC as such has not been involved in the formulation of policy on major issues. Our debates and decisions have been devoted mainly to questions of an institutional nature, rather than to the substance of world economic and social policy. Because of the authority which it enjoys, the ACC must not allow this situation to continue.
4. The activities of the individual agencies in the system have, of course, been a key factor in the tremendous growth of international activities that has taken place in recent years. Most of their major decisions have, however been taken without reference to the ACC. In this context, the question needs to be examined whether, in matters of vital importance to the United Nations system, the ACC at its own level is in a position to give the dynamic and positive leadership expected of it. This is a task involving much time and attention on the part of the ACC itself and, beyond a certain point, cannot be delegated.

5. The main value of the ACC has generally been considered to lie in the opportunity it provides for personal exchanges of views among the Executive Heads of the United Nations system on questions of general policy, thus setting the tone for all their co-ordinated efforts. Such opportunities proved invaluable in the past when the ACC was more compact and the activities of the United Nations system were less extended. Today, however, they have been overlaid by the very large membership of ACC, with striking differences in the size and character of the participating bodies.

6. The two-day sessions of the ACC, crowded with routine matters and expressions of views by a large number of participants on almost every topic handled by ACC, leave little time for it to concentrate on the major issues of policy. The adjustments made in the ACC machinery and procedures from time to time have been largely designed to meet the needs of co-ordination problems. Further improvements are undoubtedly possible, and an interesting and constructive paper advanced by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee is currently under discussion. It does not appear, however, that the changes proposed can meet the challenge of making ACC into an effective instrument for influencing important policy decisions by Governments, both those taken individually and those taken collectively at ECOSOC and the General Assembly as well as in the governing bodies of the specialized agencies.

7. The key question is how can the ACC, with the limitations of its present size, its lack of authority to take decisions except through consultations and consensus, and with equal rights of participation by members with widely differing characteristics, adjust its procedure in such a way as to give dynamic leadership in the over-all policy formulation of the United Nations system, notably in fields of common concern for economic and social development. This could be achieved only by showing a willingness to share work in the interest of the common good. For instance, without losing the representative character of the ACC, it should be possible for it to set up small functional groups, or preferably a Standing Board, to study important current problems falling within a broad area of activity and to bring up conclusions and recommendations for the consideration of the ACC itself. Such a Board to be effective should be compact and confined to

/...

a few Executive Heads whose organizations have a major responsibility in the field of activity chosen. The areas for special study should also be highly selective and confined to topics where, in the opinion of the ACC, a major contribution at its level is called for.

8. To begin with and as an experimental measure, a Board for Economic and Social Development Policy could be established. Such a Board would have to be small to be effective, consisting of not more than seven or eight members. Obviously there can be many opinions on its possible composition. The following arrangement is proposed as an example of how it might be constituted:

- (a) United Nations, which would also represent UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNHCR, UNRWA and UNITAR;
- (b) IBRD which would also represent IMF;
- (c) One representative, to be chosen by mutual consultation, on behalf of the following aid-giving agencies: UNDP, WFP, and UNICEF;
- (d) The ILO;
- (e) FAO;
- (f) UNESCO;
- (g) WHO;
- (h) One representative to be chosen by the remaining members of ACC

9. Each organization on the Board should be represented by its Executive Head. Where single membership has been suggested for a group of organizations, one Executive Head would be selected by mutual agreement. Because of his preoccupation with other important matters, the Secretary-General may, if he so wishes, nominate one of his senior officers or an Executive Head of one of the organs shown under 8 (a) to represent him. In his absence, the Chairmanship of the Board should be arranged on a rotating basis.

10. At each spring session of the ACC, a subject or subjects might be selected for consideration by the Board. At that time there would be an opportunity for all the members of ACC to express their views on the choice of issues to receive attention. Thereafter, the Board should lay down the broad guidelines for the preparation of any special studies that might be required. For the collection of data and the drafting of documents

it may be necessary to utilize the services of specialized staff. The ACC secretariat itself may not be suitable where specialized knowledge is needed. Nor would it be wise to create additional permanent secretariats. Each member of the Board involved in the preparation of a study should designate senior experts from his own organization to assist him, or in cases of "collective membership" enlist the help of the other agencies which he is representing. Some such staff may have to work full time on the study until it is completed. Where appropriate, outside consultants could also be engaged, the cost being borne by the agency concerned. When staff from different agencies are assembled to work on a given problem involving specialized skills, it should be clearly understood that they are brought together on an ad hoc basis and that no permanent intersecretariat machinery is being created. Perhaps the most important factor is that the Executive Heads forming the Board should themselves lay down the scope and content of the study, should personally supervise and direct its preparations and should approve, at their level, the final draft for consideration by the ACC. The staff designated to work on the study should be able to have personal discussions with the other interested members of the United Nations system, although only the Board would be responsible for the final text to be brought up for consideration by the ACC.

11. Since many of the Executive Heads attend each year the two sessions of the ACC, the two sessions of the UNDP Inter-Agency Consultative Board, and the summer session of ECOSOC, the Board members should easily be able to meet two or three times a year for a day or so without making special efforts for the purpose. In this way, a study selected at the spring session of ACC for treatment in depth by the Board could come back to the ACC for final consideration and decisions at the spring session of the following year.

12. Member Governments are sensing a certain deficiency in the methods of work of the United Nations system and its capacity to tackle the immense amount of development work ahead. In their anxiety to bring about improvements, they have set up innumerable co-ordination bodies, such as

the CPC, the ECPC, the Joint Meeting of ACC and CPC, the Joint Inspection Unit, the expanded role of the ACABQ, the Rapporteurs of the Social Commission etc., which tend rather to create confusion than to tackle effectively the problems which could be solved by the agencies themselves if they worked constructively in unison.

13. Any positive contribution coming from the ACC would carry considerable weight and raise its prestige vis-à-vis individual Governments and the principal organs of the United Nations family. It would also reduce the pressures which have led to Governments setting up new bodies almost haphazardly in the name of co-ordination. The treatment in depth of major topics might also eventually reduce the number of ACC Standing Committees required, or limit the frequency of their meetings, thus resulting in a saving of staff time and expenditure.

14. The difficulties of achieving common policies and co-ordination in the activities of a number of autonomous bodies serving different purposes are many and not to be underestimated. Nevertheless, an accommodation has to be found between, on the one hand, the need for a clear image and a unified effort of the United Nations system as a whole and, on the other, the pressure for each agency to pursue an independent course of action in the sector for which it is responsible. Such an accommodation has obviously to be found through the ACC.

A.H. BOERMA, Rome

Supplementary note by the Director-General of FAO

The ACC at its Rome session reviewed its own organization and procedures and took certain decisions which would enable it to devote more time to policy issues. In this connexion, I submitted a note suggesting certain further measures which would enable ACC to interpret its co-ordinating role in a dynamic sense; it was discussed in a preliminary way and deferred to the July meeting of ACC for further consideration.

I wish to offer some clarification in the light of the discussions, which I hope will be useful in arriving at a decision. It is my impression that the basic idea in my paper of involving members of ACC at their own level in important policy matters was welcomed. This is evident from the approval given by ACC to the following recommendation of the Preparatory Committee which stems from considerations similar to those I had in mind:

"(d) Consultations among a limited number of organizations on issues of special interest to them only should be encouraged. The ACC itself might periodically identify such areas, and should be kept informed of the group consultations undertaken, its secretariat being available to provide such assistance, as might be required."

(Doc. R/751, Summary of Results of ACC's forty-seventh session).

The concepts put forward in my note are perhaps more important than the arrangements needed to give effect to them. These concepts are:

- (a) ACC procedures should enable it to make timely contributions to important current problems falling within its broad area of activity;
- (b) There should be arrangements to handle key issues which require direct attention from ACC members themselves and cannot be delegated to their staff;
- (c) Any study in depth of such issues should receive appropriate technical support under the direct supervision of ACC members entrusted with the study.

It appears to me that if the recommendation quoted above, which has already been approved by ACC, is properly implemented, it would provide valuable experience enabling us to consider, at a later date if necessary the type of arrangement envisaged in my paper.

As a first step, ACC might wish to identify some of the important topics of the day, establish functional groups of limited membership consisting of executive heads whose organizations have major interests in the topics so identified, and finally indicate deadlines for the completion of the studies and submission of conclusions for consideration by the full ACC.

In addition to any assistance the groups may receive from the ACC secretariat, there should be arrangements for the organizations concerned to provide expert advice. The period for which functional groups might be required to work would depend on the short-term or long-term nature of the topics selected.

No doubt the members of the ACC will have many suggestions concerning the functional groups which might be set up at the present stage. Speaking from the FAO point of view I would suggest that two groups might be established to study and report to the 1970 spring session of ACC on the following two important subjects:

- (a) The Second Development Decade;
- (b) The United Nations Conference on Human Environment (1972).

The first working group should, for obvious reasons, include the major programme agencies.

A.H. BOERMA, Rome

Distr.
RESTRICTED

CO-ORDINATION/R.774
2 October 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON CO-ORDINATION
Forty-ninth session
22 October 1969

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
Sixty-third session
9-15 October 1969
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW AND FUNCTIONING OF INTER-AGENCY MACHINERY FOR CO-ORDINATION:
PENDING SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ACC

Note by the ACC secretariat

The present document contains papers dated 25 April 1969 and 23 June 1969, which were submitted to ACC jointly by the Secretary-General of WMO and the Director-General of IAEA.

SOME NOTES ON THE FUNCTIONING OF ACC

Introduction

1. It was agreed at the private meeting of the ACC held during its forty-sixth session (New York, October 1968) that the forthcoming retirement of the Secretary to the ACC presented a convenient opportunity of reviewing the whole ACC system and each member was invited to submit his thoughts on this matter for consideration at the next session (Rome, April 1969).
2. This paper presents some preliminary views of the undersigned members of ACC.
3. These views are expressed in the form of general comments on what seem to be desirable changes in the present system rather than detailed proposals. The latter could readily be developed if the ideas presented commend themselves to the ACC as a whole.
4. Since preparing these notes, the authors have received a copy of another shorter document on the same subject. They nevertheless feel that the notes may be of interest and should be therefore circulated. They note with some satisfaction however that the views expressed in the other document referred to, although covering a more limited field, are for the main part compatible with their own.

Membership of ACC

5. ACC is of necessity a heterogeneous body. The common link between its members is that each is the executive head of a United Nations agency duly elected by representatives of the governments of its Members*. Much could be said about the need to review and adjust the United Nations agencies in order to meet more efficiently present-day needs and to introduce some element of constitutional homogeneity; but this is outside the terms of reference of ACC and the fact that the agencies whose executive heads serve on the ACC are a "mixed bag" must be accepted.

*/ The term "United Nations agencies" is used to denote the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Incidentally, this term seems perfectly appropriate and is much briefer than the customary formula of "Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" used in ACC documents.

Need for ACC

6. It is assumed in these notes that the need for ACC is accepted and that its basic task is to assist in ensuring that the over-all resources of the United Nations system are utilized in the most effective manner. To this end, it needs to discuss certain global problems of concern to all or many agencies and to achieve co-ordination with regard to administrative and executive activities.
7. Thus the question under discussion is not whether co-ordinating machinery is necessary, nor whether a new basic system of co-ordination should be devised. It is rather how can the present ACC system be made more effective.

Structure of ACC system

8. It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss in detail the various sub-systems which together comprise the ACC system as a whole, but some comments on this subject seem necessary. Basically the ACC system comprises the ACC itself, the Preparatory Committee and a proliferation of other subsidiary bodies. These subsidiary bodies are of course an essential link in the chain of co-ordination but nevertheless it seems desirable to undertake a critical study of the usefulness of all these bodies including even the Preparatory Committee itself, with a view to abolishing those which have outlived their usefulness, and overhauling the terms of reference of others. A more systematic approach to the creation of subsidiary bodies should be introduced in the future. This question is of course closely related to the role of the ACC Secretariat.

ACC Secretariat

9. The functions of the ACC Secretariat are assumed to be:
- (a) To take follow-up action on the decisions of ACC or to ensure that such action is taken if appropriate to some other body;
 - (b) To provide documentary and other support to the ACC sessions;
 - (c) To plan, co-ordinate and support the work (including the sessions) of the subsidiary bodies of ACC;
 - (d) To maintain close relations between executive heads between sessions so as to help solve interagency problems as they arise;
 - (e) To help identify and document major multilateral co-ordination problems.

/...

At present it does not have the resources to perform any of these functions adequately. For these and other reasons a radical change in the ACC Secretariat seems essential. The five functions listed above are all the type of activity which falls to the Secretariat of each agency and the ACC Secretariat should be fully capable of performing these functions. If this were the case, the Secretariat could take over most of the tasks performed by the Preparatory Committee, the desired coordination being achieved by closer contact with the agencies at the working level. The length of time which very senior officers now spend at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee could then hopefully be reduced and possibly even completely obviated.

10. The ACC Secretariat would of course make use as far as possible of services and facilities of UN and the agencies but some strengthening of the ACC Secretariat seems inevitable. The ACC Secretariat should however be functionally quite independent of any of the organizations or if it is to be a part of the United Nations, it should come directly under the Secretary-General. It should operate under procedures defined by ACC and be answerable to ACC.

11. As regards the type of person who should serve as the Head of the ACC Secretariat, an Assistant Secretary-General grade with experience of work in a national administration as well as high level service in a UN organization is essential. But in addition the following points are relevant.

12. Most members of ACC are the heads of agencies which are completely or significantly scientific and technical in character and most other agencies are concerned in one way or another with scientific matters. This is simply a reflection of the fact that science and technology are playing a continually increasing role in world affairs. It is therefore desirable that there should be strong scientific representation in the ACC Secretariat, and preferably the head of the Secretariat should be a scientist.

13. Science and technology play an ever more important role in forming man's living conditions. The Secretary-General should be advised on these matters by one scientific advisory committee (SAC) superseding present bodies composed of fifteen outstanding representatives for science and technology who would meet once or twice every year. Specific topics could be analysed by ad hoc committees of the SAC. The final recommendations by the SAC could whenever deemed appropriate by the Secretary-General, be referred to ACC for comments. SAC should be served by the ACC Secretariat.

/...

14. As regards the location of the ACC Secretariat, there seems no reason why it should not be based in Geneva and so be within easy reach of the majority of its members.

15. The cost of the ACC Secretariat should be shared equally by all agencies.

Sessions of ACC

16. The sessions of ACC at present are little more than a means of keeping the executive heads in personal contact with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with each other. The occasion is an enjoyable social occasion justified from an official point of view only by the "tour d'horizon" of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of world affairs at the private meeting and by the fact that in the interest of inter-agency collaboration in a general way (within or without ACC) it is important that the executive heads should know each other personally.

17. The open part of the ACC session is becoming increasingly the simple formality of approving the draft report of ACC prepared a few days previously by the Preparatory Committee - so much of a formality indeed and performed in such an atmosphere of urgency to close the meeting, that many members feel that they are rendering a disservice to their colleagues if they make an intervention.

18. While therefore sessions of ACC are desirable, indeed essential, features of the system, it is believed that increased use could be made of them. Some comments on possible arrangements for the sessions are given in the following paragraphs.

19. The present arrangement whereby the ACC meets twice a year, once in New York and once in Europe, with a possible third meeting in Geneva during ECOSOC, seems satisfactory, but with a strengthened Secretariat the meeting in New York might be found to be unnecessary. The present arrangement whereby the sessions are in two parts - one a closed meeting with only ACC members and the other an open meeting with supporting staff, is likewise considered satisfactory.

20. In addition, however, it seems desirable to take more advantage of this gathering than is done at present. As already mentioned, there is virtually no exchange of general information on the activities of each agency. Evidently, long general statements on the activities of each agency would be unnecessary but any new developments in any agency should be brought forward so that each member

/...

of the ACC may keep himself abreast of all the main developments in the United Nations system of organizations. In the same line of thought, the ACC might choose at each session one (or perhaps two) subjects of interest to several agencies and have a discussion in some depth. After such a discussion inter-agency co-ordination in that particular field would, it is thought, assume a new and beneficial significance both within and outside ACC.

21. If such a course does not appeal to the ACC as a whole, advantage might be taken of the gathering together of the heads of the agencies for at least some of them (especially the more scientific and technical agencies) to arrange informal gatherings outside the ACC framework.

Conclusion

22. (a) The ACC Secretariat should be strengthened and should be given a more scientific flavour;
- (b) It should be responsible in all respects (functional and financial) to the ACC as a whole;
- (c) It should be located in Geneva;
- (d) The functions of the ACC Secretariat should be completely overhauled and major improvements made in the documentation and general servicing of ACC sessions. The whole subsidiary structure of ACC should be reorganized;
- (e) More use should be made of the personal contacts between executive heads which the ACC sessions provide for the formal exchange of information on the activities of each agency as well as for informal discussions or even lectures.

25 April 1969

D.A. Davies, Geneva

E.Eklund, Vienna

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ACC SYSTEM

Notes following the discussions in Rome, April 1969

Introduction

1. At the private meeting held during its forty-seventh session (Rome, April 1969), the ACC discussed various proposals aimed at making the ACC a more efficient instrument for inter-agency co-ordination. These discussions were based mainly on papers presented by several members of the ACC, including one by the authors of the present paper.
2. The ACC agreed that the changes in the ACC system put forward in some of these proposals were necessary and that they should therefore be examined in more detail at the next session. The ACC also agreed that the other proposals submitted at that time should be studied further at the next session.

Purpose of document

3. The purpose of this document is to recapitulate the proposals previously submitted by the authors of this present paper and to review the extent to which they have been met by the proposals already agreed upon. In the light of this review, further proposals are submitted for the consideration of the ACC. In the absence of any official record of the Rome session, the review is based on the understanding of the authors as to the decisions taken at Rome.

Strengthening of the ACC Secretariat

4. The previous paper recommended that the ACC Secretariat should be strengthened and that one or more scientists should be appointed to serve in it. The ACC agreed in principle to the strengthening of the ACC Secretariat. The proposal to introduce one or more scientists received general support but no decision on this was recorded in the approved text.
5. It is therefore proposed that this matter be considered again at the next session of the ACC.

Channel of responsibility

6. The previous paper recommended that the ACC Secretariat should be responsible in all respects (functional and financial) to the ACC as a whole. The ACC,

/...

however, agreed that the head of the Secretariat should function under the direct authority of the Secretary-General, reporting directly to him. On the question of financing, the ACC agreed that the Secretary-General should discuss with the Controller and with the chairman of the ACAEQ the possibility of the entire cost of the ACC Secretariat being met from the budget of the United Nations. If this was not found feasible the offer of the agencies to contribute to the expenses would be duly considered.

7. The authors while still maintaining that the most desirable basis on which the ACC Secretariat should operate is that of equal responsibility (functional and financial) to all its members, accept that this view is not shared by their colleagues on the ACC and do not therefore press this point.

Location of ACC Secretariat

8. The previous paper recommended that the ACC should be located in Geneva in order to be more conveniently located physically to the majority of the members of ACC. This view was not accepted by the other members but it was agreed that the Geneva component of the ACC Secretariat should be maintained and that its staff should be increased. The authors accept this as a reasonable compromise.

9. In paragraph 4 above, reference is made to the need for recruiting one or more scientists to serve in the Secretariat and the proposal is made that this matter be discussed again in detail at the next session of the ACC. It is now further proposed that the aim should be to give to the Geneva component of the Secretariat special responsibilities for science and technology. If this were done, the overall proposals put forward in the previous paper would to a large extent be met. A scientist of at least the grade D.1 and preferably D.2 should be appointed.

Subsidiary structure of ACC

10. The previous paper recommended that the whole subsidiary structure of the ACC should be re-examined and reorganized. At its last session, the ACC gave considerable attention to the role of the Preparatory Committee and took various decisions. In particular it was agreed that with the enlargement of the ACC Secretariat, the duration of Preparatory Committee meetings should be shortened to approximately one week; that the Preparatory Committee should have greater

authority and that all subsidiary bodies including the CCAQ and CCPI should report to it; and that in general it should be in a position to deal definitively with problems of "management". In addition, it was recognized that a wider examination of all the subsidiary bodies of ACC should be made but did not include this view in the record.

11. The authors readily support the need for streamlining the work of the Preparatory Committee in the ways described above but re-emphasize the need for a review of all the subsidiary bodies with a view to eliminating those which have outlined their usefulness and reorganizing and reducing the others.

Increased usefulness of ACC sessions

12. The previous paper recommended that more use should be made of the personal contacts between executive heads which the ACC sessions provide for enabling them to keep abreast of the main developments in the United Nations system of organizations and that one or two subjects be selected at each session for discussion in some depth. The ACC went a long way to accepting this view by stating that the ACC members should devote major attention to a limited number of key policy issues.

13. The authors do not therefore press this point further at this stage but may wish to return to the matter at a later stage if experience shows that the objective referred to in the previous paragraph is not attained.

Establishment of Scientific Advisory Committee

14. The previous paper stressed the fact that science and technology play an ever increasing role in modern affairs and that a broadly based Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) be established to advise the Secretary-General (not the ACC) and to replace other scientific advisory bodies. The recommendations of this body could then be referred by the Secretary-General to the ACC whenever he felt such a course desirable.

15. This proposal did not meet with general support but the discussion on it became related to the discussion of another paper which envisaged the establishment of special groups of ACC members each dealing with a subject of major importance to the members of the group in question. The thought was therefore expressed, and was generally accepted, that if such special groups were to be established

/...

one of these might relate to science and technology. The ACC decided however to establish one such group on an experimental basis and to re-examine the whole question again at its next session. The group in question was one to deal with economic and social development policy.*

16. The authors still maintain that their original proposal has great merit and that subsequent developments may well prove the necessity of such a body; nevertheless they do not press the point pending experience in the application of the new idea of specialized groups.

Conclusions

17. The decisions of the ACC at its previous session go a long way to meeting the proposals presented by the authors in their previous papers. They consider however that the following matters should be taken up at the next session of the ACC:

- (a) Proposals for the strengthening of the Geneva component of the ACC Secretariat;
- (b) The financial arrangements for the strengthening of the ACC Secretariat be re-examined and if possible firm decisions taken;
- (c) The steps for the strengthening of the Secretariat be taken and in particular that the Geneva component be strengthened by the appointment of at least one scientist at the level of D.1 or D.2;
- (d) Steps be taken for the establishment of a special ACC "group" on science and technology and a plan be prepared for it to begin its activities promptly;
- (e) The subsidiary bodies of ACC be reviewed with a view to reducing their number;
- (f) the form which ACC sessions should take in the future be discussed in detail and decisions taken.

23 June 1969

S. Eklund, Vienna

D.A. Davies, Geneva

* At least this is the understanding of the authors but in the absence of an approved record of the meeting, there may be some misunderstanding in this respect. It is also their understanding that the main difference between these groups and specialized sub-committees of the ACC (of which there are many) is that at meetings of the groups, the members of the ACC will as far as possible be present. Indeed, without this, the proposal for these groups is simply a reiteration of the existing policy of creating sub-committees or other subsidiary bodies whenever necessary.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT ITS
RESUMED NINTH SESSION

63 (IX). Special measures in favour of the least developed among the
developing countries

The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling resolution 24 (II) adopted unanimously at the second session of UNCTAD on special measures to be taken in favour of the least developed among the developing countries,

Reaffirming the importance of this subject to the least developed among the developing countries,

Agreeing that it is incumbent upon the United Nations family as a whole to collaborate to provide the various elements that will have to go into a positive policy aimed at implementing special measures for the least developed among developing countries,

1. Invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to submit at the third part of the ninth session of the Trade and Development Board the studies requested in paragraph 3 (b) of the Conference resolution 24 (II) with a view to devising effective measures that would enable the least developed among the developing countries to benefit from the Second United Nations Development Decade. To this end the Secretary-General may appoint a small group of experts serving in their personal capacity and selected in consultation with the heads of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut;
2. Draws to the attention of the General Assembly, and through it to the heads of the specialized agencies concerned, of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, the importance which UNCTAD attaches to the problems of the least developed among developing countries;
3. Invites the General Assembly to consider urgently how other organs of the United Nations system could, within their respective fields of competence, carry out a comprehensive examination of the problems of the least developed among developing countries and contribute to a solution of these problems by devising effective measures to enable these countries to benefit from the Second United Nations Development Decade; to this end a course of action similar to that which UNCTAD proposes to undertake as outlined in paragraph 1 above could be appropriate.

224th plenary meeting
22 September 1969