



Tuesday, 25 November 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

Headquarters, New York

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**President: Mr. Lester B. PEARSON (Canada).**

### Tribute to the memory of Abraham H. Feller

1. The PRESIDENT: Since the Assembly last met in plenary meeting, we have been shocked and grieved by the tragic loss of one of the most devoted and loyal servants of the United Nations, our colleague and friend, Abraham Feller.

2. Mr. Feller had been a member of the Secretariat since its very first days. Before that, though a young man, he had already achieved an enviable record of distinguished service to his country, to his profession of the law and to the cause of international co-operation.

3. His work and the spirit which inspired that work contributed greatly to the building up of a framework of international law and procedure in these vital formative years since the United Nations Charter was signed. He was dedicated to the cause of international understanding and peace, and to the building and strengthening of an international organization devoted to these ends. He was, in the best sense of the word, a servant of the world community, and he played an important part in developing in our United Nations that indispensable mechanism for co-operation among nations—a strong and efficient international civil service—and in making it a proud and honourable calling.

4. Only a few short weeks ago I heard Abraham Feller speak on this very platform about the work so near to his heart. Of the United Nations, he then said:

“All the experience of the past has shown that eventual peace and security cannot be attained without international co-operation. All the experience of our years has shown that international co-operation is not just a set of words. It means hard work and it means sacrifice.”<sup>1</sup>

Now, hard work and sacrifice have taken him from our midst, and his name must be added to the honour roll of those who have fallen in the battle for world peace.

5. The inspiration of his life and his work will give his colleagues in the United Nations—and especially in the Secretariat—strength and support as they carry out their duties in these difficult times, as they face new problems and new responsibilities.

6. I am sure that Abraham Feller, in these latter days, must have been worried by the mounting difficulties facing the United Nations, must have been saddened by

<sup>1</sup> Speech given at the 1st meeting of the 21st session of the New York Herald Tribune Forum, held at the United Nations Headquarters on 19 October 1952.

the set-backs which the cause of international co-operation seemed to have received, must have been perplexed by the frustrations and complexities of international service. But I know also that Abraham Feller died, proud in the conviction that he had maintained unsullied the vow he took, and which every United Nations official takes, on accepting an appointment in our Organization. That vow, as you know, reads—and I make no apology for quoting it on this occasion:

"I solemnly undertake to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as a member of the international service of the United Nations, to discharge those functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization."

7. On your behalf, I express to his sorely stricken widow and his next-of-kin our deepest sympathy at a loss which we all share.

8. Mrs. ROOSEVELT (United States of America): Abraham Feller's death has brought a great loss to his country as well as to the United Nations. We are proud of the great contribution Mr. Feller made to the creation and the work of the United Nations. He served his country with all his heart, and in the latter period of his life enlarged that service to the cause of world peace, a cause to which his countrymen are profoundly devoted. All his outstanding abilities were dedicated to the advancement of that cause, to the work of the United Nations. He did not spare himself. He felt most keenly the triumphs and the trials through which this Organization of the world community has passed. To his friends and colleagues he has left behind the example of a selfless dedication to the cause he served.

### General debate (concluded)

[Agenda item 8]

SPEECH BY MR. GHALEB (EGYPT)

9. The PRESIDENT: At the 397th plenary meeting, which was our last meeting, the representative of Egypt, under rule 74 of the rules of procedure, requested the right to make a short reply in the general debate after the list of speakers had been exhausted. He was not prepared at that meeting to make his intervention. I call on him now to speak in reply in the general debate. This right of reply exercised by the representative of Egypt will be the last statement in the general debate.

10. Mr. GHALEB (Egypt): The Egyptian delegation, conscious, as we all are, of the importance of the time element in this momentous session of the General Assembly, combined objectivity with brevity in the exercise of its right in the general debate on the 12th of this month. [395th meeting].

11. The abuse of this rostrum by the representative of Israel, the next day, compelled the delegation of Egypt to request the right of reply in accordance with rule 74.

12. In his concise statement, the Egyptian Foreign Minister based Egypt's apprehensions regarding rati-

fication of the German reparations agreement on two counts: first, the inescapable threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, and, secondly, the absence of the right of Israel to such reparations.

13. The infuriation of the representative of Israel was not totally unexpected, but the abuse of this rostrum for the delivery of reckless attacks on the Arab States exceeded all expectations. Avoiding the two basic arguments, the representative of Israel endeavoured [397th meeting] to confuse the issue in a mess of inaccuracies. Under a cloak of smeary platitudes, not excluding such words as "blackmail", he made the allegation that the Arab governments were intruding, with prejudice, against any compensation for the sufferings of the Jews.

14. The records of the League of Nations contain ample evidence that Egypt was among the foremost countries to condemn the persecution of the Jews by the nazis. Jews have lived in Egypt and in the other Arab countries for thousands of years. Thousands of Jews are still living there with their Moslem and Christian brethren. The recent visits by General Mohamed Naguib, Prime Minister of Egypt, to Jewish synagogues, as well as Christian churches and Moslem mosques, are but further proof of the inherent respect on the part of the Egyptian people for all religions.

15. The Arab States are not against a just and equitable compensation for every Jew who was subjected to nazi atrocities, but we are convinced of the absence of the right of Israel to such reparations.

16. This conviction is now shared, in no small measure, by the right wing and democratic parties in Western Germany. On the same day that the representative of Israel was accusing the Arab States of intervention in German domestic affairs, those German parties, according to an Associated Press dispatch published in *The New York Times* on 14 November, were suggesting to their Government that the United Nations should take over the distribution of the \$775 million of reparations. They even suggested that part of the deliveries should be used to settle the many homeless Arab refugees. Could there be better testimony, at least, of the doubts in the minds of the German people themselves, regarding the claim of Israel to such reparations?

17. The German reparations agreement does not stipulate the supply of food for the hungry or cover for the needy. The agreement could not have itemized a better inventory of the sinews of war. The agreement is all guns and no butter. It stipulates the supply to Israel of thousands of tons of iron, of steel, of foundry products, and of heavy machinery. It contains all the items identified with war potential. This is where the danger lies, the danger to neighbouring Arab States which have not, so far, been given access to the bare minimum of their legitimate defensive requirements. The list of enormous quantities to be given to Israel, of almost everything that goes into the production of weapons and military equipment, should not be lightly glanced at. It should be scrutinized in the light of Zionist expansionist ambitions, which leave no shade of doubt as to the ultimate aim of Zionism in the Middle East.

18. There is hardly a work on the Zionist movement, since its inception, that limits the Zionist expansionist ambitions to less than the area between the Nile and the Euphrates. As late as 1936, Wilhelm Riebel came out with the latest aggressive theory in the delineation of frontiers. The frontiers of the new kingdom of Israel, he said at the time, should not be defined; the frontiers should extend as far as the new kingdom could reach out.

19. The other allegation, that Egypt is interfering with the passage of commerce and shipping on their way to Israel, through the Suez Canal, is another Israel snare. Egypt is exercising the absolute minimum of her inalienable rights of self-defence. The items denied passage to Israel through the Suez Canal are those in the category of war material and military equipment. Could any State, in circumstances similar to those obtaining on the borders of Egypt, allow the passage of such items through its territory?

20. The representative of Israel found it more convenient, while making his allegation, to omit any reference to General Assembly resolutions and Security Council decisions bearing directly upon the whole of the Palestine question, and the precautions taken by Egypt in legitimate self-defence. These precautions stem from the fact that vital decisions by the United Nations have so far been ignored or defied by Israel. Those decisions embodied, amongst other things, the return of the Arabs of Palestine to their homes, and the internationalization of the Jerusalem area.

21. Where, now, do one million Arabs of Palestine reside? Are they back in their own homes, or living under almost impossible conditions of misery and deprivation? What is the present status of the Jerusalem area? How far has Israel gone in defiance of the United Nations? Could the just answers to these questions be erased from the list of "decencies of international intercourse" to which the representative of Israel so unabashedly referred?

22. An honest appraisal of Egypt's record in the United Nations attests to Egypt's peaceful intentions, the legality of its stand and its readiness to co-operate in good faith with people of goodwill, within the framework of the United Nations and on the basis of a just implementation of the decisions of United Nations organs.

23. The PRESIDENT: The general debate is now closed.

**Co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Programme of conferences at Headquarters and Geneva: report of the Secretary-General (A/2243)**

[Agenda item 26 (b)]

24. Mr. MAROGER (France) (*translated from French*): Every year, our General Assembly is called on to consider, with the benignity of a mother for her children and the solicitude of a guardian for his wards' finances, the desire expressed by a number of the principal or subsidiary organs of the United Nations to hold their sessions at the European Office of the United Nations, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The discussion does not always proceed smoothly. Such sessions make it necessary to transfer staff members

and entail additional expenditure. On the other hand, they often have important political advantages. The debate on the pros and cons of this question has often been lively.

25. It was in the hope of avoiding the annual repetition of these debates that the Assembly last year adopted a resolution [534 (VI)] requesting the Secretary-General to consult the principal organs concerned and the executive heads of the specialized agencies, and in the light of those consultations to submit to this session a programme of conferences to be held at Headquarters and at Geneva, based on the economic and rational utilization of the facilities available to the Organization at its two offices.

26. The Secretary-General has submitted his report (A/2243) to us, and, in accordance with his responsibilities for the administration of the United Nations, he has laid particular stress on the administrative advantages of holding all sessions of organs based at Headquarters in New York. We all feel the force of that argument; but we cannot be guided by it alone.

27. The views expressed by the executive heads of the specialized agencies, which are summarized in paragraph 7 of the report, seem to us to warrant careful consideration by the Assembly, the more so since the programme of conferences and the co-ordination of our work with that of the specialized agencies are interrelated matters. There is no doubt that, as they take up increasingly practical and technical problems in their deliberations, the United Nations organs connected with the Economic and Social Council will find it more and more valuable to be in direct contact with the governing bodies and the permanent secretariats of the specialized agencies, particularly the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and UNESCO, all of which have their headquarters in or near Geneva.

28. But that is only one aspect of the problem—the technical aspect, so to speak. There is another aspect, whose importance my delegation has already had occasion to emphasize on several occasions—the political aspect.

29. In deciding to establish its headquarters in the United States, the United Nations indicated clearly the importance it attached to the actual presence and active participation of that great country in its work; I might even say, the special responsibility which it would like the United States to assume in the pursuit of its objectives. But that decision does not and must not mean that the United Nations can do without the active and enlightened support and the diplomatic and technical experience of the old world, of Europe and the Orient.

30. If the necessary and desirable balance between the two hemispheres is to be achieved, there must be an equitable division between the Organization's two offices, at New York and Geneva, of what constitutes its most striking feature in the eyes of the public in all countries—the meetings of its conferences and commissions. In that connexion, I should like to recall the effect which the holding of the United Nations General Assembly in Paris last year had on public opinion in France. It made our Organization a concrete and living reality for my fellow countrymen. The United Nations

no longer seemed to them a remote and mysterious shrine reserved to a few initiates; and I believe that it is greatly to the interest of our Organization to bring itself closer to the peoples who compose it.

31. For these reasons I am convinced that if sessions of the Economic and Social Council and of functional commissions are systematically held at Geneva, the United Nations will thereby be taking the most effective action to make its presence felt in Europe and to give Europe a proof of its vitality. In any event, it may be noted that the necessity for maintaining such a balance has been so clearly understood by the Assembly that each year, despite its desire for economy, it has granted the wish of one or other of its organs to meet at Geneva.

32. It must be recognized, however, that the uncertainty of programmes resulting from this conflict of desires and hesitations has had unfortunate effects on the actual organization of conferences; for example, on the distribution of documents and the time-tables of sessions and leaves. All these very complex problems, which are at the very root of economic and rational planning, have remained subject to what may have seemed the caprices of the General Assembly's annual decisions.

33. It is time this situation was altered, and the aim of the draft resolution [A/L.114] submitted to the Assembly is in fact to alter it as simply and painlessly as possible, without sacrificing that balance between the two hemispheres to which I have just referred, without being swayed by purely financial considerations, but confining the requirements of the desired balance within a stable framework, compatible with the economic and rational administration of the Organization's human and material resources.

34. Mr. VAN LANGENHOVE (Belgium) (*translated from French*): The very fact that the item concerning the programme of the United Nations conferences at Headquarters and at Geneva has been referred directly to the Assembly in plenary meeting rather than to the Fifth Committee seems to me sufficient to show that the question is not a purely administrative and budgetary one but definitely has political aspects as well.

35. The question is whether the meetings of the United Nations Councils and main commissions which have their headquarters in New York should all be held here, or whether it would not be better for such meetings to be distributed, within reasonable limits, between New York and Geneva, without, however, excluding the possibility of meeting occasionally in other towns. Basically, therefore, the problem is to choose between rigorous concentration on the one hand, and balanced distribution on the other.

36. To us, balanced distribution seems the wiser solution. It is half-way between an excessively rigorous centralization which may have serious political disadvantages, and an over-dispersion which may have serious administrative and budgetary disadvantages.

37. During the work of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations, when the choice of the United Nations headquarters gave rise to keen debate between the supporters of meetings in Europe and the supporters of meetings in the United States, a number of

delegations expressed the opinion that all the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be concentrated in one place for reasons of budgetary economy and administrative co-ordination.

38. What has happened, in fact, since 1945? The specialized agencies have established themselves in various places, and most of them have set up their headquarters in Europe—at Geneva, Paris, and Rome. Furthermore, as has just been recalled, the General Assembly has decided on several occasions that its Councils, particularly the Economic and Social Council, and the main functional commissions, should hold their meetings at the European Office of the United Nations, in spite of the objections on administrative and budgetary grounds which were regularly raised against those proposals.

39. What conclusion must be drawn from this? Merely that there are sometimes arguments which speak more strongly than budgetary considerations. In the case in point, the Assembly has clearly expressed its desire to establish a balanced programme of meetings in accordance with the wishes of all the organs concerned—the Councils and commissions—which considered it in accordance with their interests to meet periodically away from the United Nations Headquarters.

40. In actual fact, as the French representative has just observed, the Councils and main commissions have held a considerable number of meetings at Geneva every year since the United Nations was established. One reason would seem to be that the specialized agencies, which are in close touch with the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, have their headquarters at Geneva or close to the European Office of the United Nations, but another reason, I think, is that the United Nations has in Europe a vast, palatial building perfectly equipped and serviced, so that the highest level of output has always been maintained. In that connexion, experience has shown delegations that, far from being improvised, the sessions held at Geneva are a model of effective preparation and organization.

41. As has just been shown, however, the present methods, whereby the choice of a meeting place is left to be decided by vote and the convenience of delegations, offer serious disadvantages. They make it impossible to establish a long-term programme, to distribute meetings in a rational way between New York and Geneva, or to make full use of the facilities at the European Office; they also make it impossible to recruit an adequate permanent staff to service meetings at Geneva, thus avoiding the always wasteful use of temporary staff and the transfer of a large number of officials from Headquarters. Each year, they give rise to the same irritating discussion when the supplementary appropriations come to be voted on.

42. The Assembly realized that a change of methods was called for and that was why, at its sixth session, it decided to request the Secretary-General "after consultation with the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the principal organs of the United Nations concerned" to prepare and submit to the Assembly at its seventh session an annual basic pattern of United Nations conferences in Geneva with a view 'to the most effective utilization of the available facilities at Geneva and Headquarters and, possibly, to saving on

the total expenditure of the United Nations and specialized agencies' " [A/2243, para. 1].

43. That decision settled a question of principle. In the light of the discussions in the Assembly, it clearly showed the desire of a majority of the Member States not to centralize all United Nations activities at Headquarters; it also indicated a desire considerably to reduce complications and the travelling expenses of the Administration, in particular by drawing up a long-range calendar of conferences. At the same time, it recognized the importance and possibilities of the Geneva office as well as the advantage of holding regular meetings of the Councils and commissions there.

44. Furthermore, the consultations with the executive heads of the specialized agencies were quite conclusive. In this connexion, the report of the Secretary-General states the following:

"In the course of these consultations, representatives of the specialized agencies situated in Europe emphasized the importance of maintaining the closest relationships with the Economic and Social Council and their belief that the periodic meetings which the Council had held in Europe had proved invaluable in the maintenance of such relationships" [A/2243, para. 7].

45. The opinion to which I have just drawn your attention carries much weight, for the specialized agencies are in a better position than anyone else to judge of their own requirements in the various branches of activity covered by the work of the Economic and Social Council.

46. Such are the reasons which have induced the Belgian delegation to associate itself with other delegations in presenting the draft resolution [A/L.114] that has been submitted to the General Assembly. The draft has the merit of establishing a practical procedure in the form of an Assembly committee to study the Secretary-General's report in detail and of laying down the main lines of work for a committee of that kind.

47. The United Kingdom delegation has submitted an amendment [A/C.115] to that draft resolution. We interpret the amendment as meaning that the Assembly would leave it to the *ad hoc* committee to decide how regularly meetings should be held at Geneva, without prejudging the question of their precise frequency. I have been authorized by the authors of the draft resolution to accept the amendment on their behalf. Thus the draft resolution provides all the flexibility that could be desired and I recommend it to the approval of the Assembly.

48. Viscount CALDECOTE (United Kingdom): My delegation does not want to prolong this debate, as we consider that all the details of this somewhat complicated matter should be discussed in a committee, as proposed in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution [A/L.114] sponsored by the delegations of Argentina, Belgium, Denmark and France, but I should like to indicate very briefly the view of my delegation.

49. We fully agree with the sponsors of the draft resolution that it is important that a regular pattern of conferences should be established, covering a period of at least three, and preferably five, years, so that the Secretariat may be able to make the most efficient

and economical arrangements for conferences and meetings both at Headquarters and in Geneva. This was clearly the intention of the resolution passed by the General Assembly last year, and I assume that paragraph 1 of the draft resolution is designed to reaffirm that intention and refers to all meetings held in Geneva, whether of organs of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies.

50. All kinds of difficult considerations are involved in this problem, and we share the view that we should not try to discuss them in detail here, but that the matter should be carefully considered by a small committee. In our opinion, such an *ad hoc* committee should be given considerable latitude and should not be restricted in its recommendations by too detailed instructions from the General Assembly.

51. We do not doubt that it will be possible to reach an agreement in the *ad hoc* committee on the frequency of meetings of United Nations bodies away from Headquarters, but we should prefer that there should be full scope for discussion there and that the General Assembly should not limit the committee's terms of reference to the extent suggested in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. We have therefore proposed [A/L.115] that in that paragraph the words "each year" should be replaced by "at regular intervals", and we are very glad that this amendment is acceptable to the sponsors of the draft resolution.

52. We can now give the draft resolution our full support, in the hope that it will be passed by the General Assembly without prolonged discussion and that the committee will get down to its work without delay.

53. Mr. SHAW (Australia): The Australian delegation has given a great deal of thought to the problem now before the General Assembly, that is, of establishing a regular pattern of conferences at Headquarters and at Geneva, and we are grateful to the Secretary-General for the thoughtful study he has made of the question, as embodied in his report.

54. Nobody would deny the desirability of establishing a firm, reasonable and regular pattern of conference activity. The United Nations has been functioning for some years, its permanent and well-appointed Headquarters are virtually completed, so that the time has come for us to be more settled and predictable in our activities and meetings.

55. The immediate advantages of regularity are self-evident. A regular pattern would mean that governments of Member States and the Secretary-General would be able to plan well ahead, and members of delegations and the Secretariat would have knowledge of their future comings and goings. The ensuing administrative rationalization should also be of great benefit. Personnel services and resources could be co-ordinated to provide the maximum convenience, combined with efficiency and economy. Long-term advantages would necessarily follow, once we settled on a definite and orderly way of things. Then, speaking negatively, the existence of a regular pattern of conferences would obviate much time now spent annually in debating the conference pattern for the succeeding year and discussing whether this or that body should meet at this or that place.

56. We must, of course, consider whether it is possible to establish the regular sort of pattern we have

in mind. We must look at the details of the various kinds of work that have to be carried out at a conference and the facilities available. This is quite a complex task; it is certainly no task to be undertaken in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

57. It is for that reason that the Australian delegation welcomes the initiative taken by the delegations of Argentina, Belgium, Denmark and France in submitting the proposal to have an *ad hoc* committee go into this question of establishing a conference pattern at Headquarters and at Geneva and to report back to the General Assembly.

58. We believe that it will be possible for such a small committee as is suggested to carry out the task we have in mind. This committee could study all the relevant details and statistics and the other, more general, considerations which have been mentioned this morning. It could relate requirements to resources and come forth with a conference pattern, the essence of which, we hope, would be regularity. That committee, I suggest, could meet as soon as possible and might even come forward with a pattern which could be applied to the coming year. My delegation would prefer to see the terms of reference of this committee kept reasonably open, granted that regularity in the patterns of meetings, with a consequent rationalization of resources, is the overriding consideration.

59. Many of us have had strong feelings on where the United Nations bodies should normally meet. The Secretary-General himself has taken a firm stand, on grounds of economy and convenience, in favour of having all Headquarters-based organs meet at Headquarters. The basic position of the Australian delegation is probably well known. We believe that, so far as is reasonable, meetings of the United Nations bodies should be held here at Headquarters. Nonetheless, we have no wish to be dogmatic or inflexible on this point. We can see no reason, for example, why an organ such as the Trusteeship Council should meet in Geneva. On the other hand, we can see cogent reasons which may be advanced for holding meetings of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva, where the bulk of the specialized agencies are located or are nearby, and where other bodies, such as the Economic Commission for Europe, are established.

60. We would suggest, in passing, that care be taken to ensure that no proposal is adopted to have, say, the Trusteeship Council meet in Geneva on any regular basis simply because it may be convenient and appropriate for the Economic and Social Council to meet there. The whole purpose of setting up a regular pattern would be vitiated if action were taken on such superficial grounds. However, it is not my aim at this stage to dwell upon details or take a final stand on any particular item. A small group, in full possession of the facts and figures, and keeping in mind the wider considerations, can best settle the points outstanding. I believe that we should leave the question to the proposed committee, without any undue prejudgment of the issues involved.

61. To sum up, I wish to associate my delegation with support for the establishment of a settled programme of United Nations conferences at Headquarters and Geneva, because of the numerous short-term and long-term advantages that will accrue to all con-

cerned. We would wish, however, that the *ad hoc* committee should go thoroughly into all the details before the plenary meeting so that we, at a later stage, having all the relevant considerations, can then take our final stand.

62. Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand): On behalf of the New Zealand delegation, I should like to make a few observations on the item before us.

63. The Secretary-General has presented us with a careful and comprehensive review of the problems involved in planning a rational distribution of conferences between Geneva and New York, which, I am sure, will be of great assistance to the Assembly in reaching a decision on this matter. My delegation considers that the establishment of a regular pattern of conferences is desirable from the point of view both of the Secretariat and of the delegations involved in particular conferences. It will also do away with the often lengthy discussions which take place on this subject in the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

64. The position of the New Zealand delegation has consistently been that Headquarters-based organs should meet at Headquarters, unless there are very special circumstances. In accordance with this principle, it is our view that the General Assembly should ordinarily meet in New York unless, for example, it is decided to meet in San Francisco for the tenth session. There might be other special reasons which would also justify departure from the normal rule.

65. The Security Council should also meet, in the opinion of my delegation, regularly in New York, except where meetings are agreed upon as provided for in Article 28, paragraph 2, of the Charter.

66. We prefer also that the Trusteeship Council should always meet in New York, since there do not appear to be any special reasons why it should meet elsewhere.

67. The situation is somewhat different with the Economic and Social Council. This body has unique relations with the specialized agencies, most of which are located in Geneva or in cities reasonably nearby. The Economic Commission for Europe also has its headquarters in Geneva. Consequently, if it is desirable, on general grounds, for one of the Headquarters-based United Nations organs to meet occasionally in Geneva, we should prefer that to be the Economic and Social Council. As we know, the Economic and Social Council has itself decided to meet in Geneva next summer,<sup>2</sup> and the Fifth Committee [356th meeting] has recommended the necessary financial provisions for this purpose. This need not necessarily be an annual arrangement. My delegation would be prepared to consider, for example, a proposal to hold the summer session in Geneva once every two years.

68. So far as the functional commissions are concerned, we believe that a case can be made for holding sessions of the International Law Commission and the Narcotic Drugs Commission in Geneva.

69. Having expressed the views of my delegation on the substance of the matter before us, I should now

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 1, p. 73.*

like to make a few comments on the draft resolution. My delegation will support the joint draft resolution as amended by the United Kingdom. But in doing so, I wish to make it clear that we do not consider it incumbent upon the *ad hoc* committee proposed in the draft resolution to provide for a session of each Council to be held in Geneva. We consider that this general reference to holding sessions of the Councils in Geneva applies primarily to the Economic and Social Council, and my delegation reserves to itself full freedom of action at any subsequent stage to oppose any plan proposed by the *ad hoc* committee which provides for sessions in Geneva of the other two Councils of the United Nations.

70. The PRESIDENT: As no other member wishes to speak, we can now decide on the draft resolution submitted by Australia, Belgium, Denmark and France (A/L.114), to which an amendment (A/L.115) has been submitted by the United Kingdom. I understand that this amendment has been accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. On that assumption, we can decide on the draft resolution as amended.

71. I interpret the draft resolution to mean that the *ad hoc* committee of twelve members, which is to be appointed by the President, is to report to the present session of the Assembly as soon as possible.

72. If there is no objection to the adoption of this draft resolution as amended, I shall declare it adopted.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.*

73. The PRESIDENT: In pursuance of paragraph 2 of the resolution, which instructs the President of the General Assembly to appoint the twelve members of the *ad hoc* committee, I propose that it should consist of members of the following delegations: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Iraq, Pakistan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela. Members of those delegations will constitute the *ad hoc* committee of twelve referred to in the resolution which the Assembly has just adopted.

**Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors: (a) United Nations, for the financial year ended 31 December 1951; b) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, for the financial year ended 31 December 1951; (c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the period 1 January 1951 to 30**

**June 1952; (d) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1952: report of the Fifth Committee (A/2265)**

[Agenda item 39]

**Supplementary estimates for 1952: report of the Fifth Committee (A/2266)**

[Agenda item 41]

**Headquarters of the United Nations: report of the Fifth Committee (A/2267)**

[Agenda item 47]

*Pursuant to rule 67 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss agenda items 39, 41 and 47.*

*Mr. Brennan (Australia) (Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee) presented the reports of that Committee (A/2265, A/2266 and A/2267).*

74. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will appreciate the reports that we have just received from the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Brennan. We shall now come to a decision in respect of these reports.

75. The first decision we shall have to take is in respect of the report which is contained in document A/2265.

76. A separate vote on each of the four draft resolutions contained in this document has been requested by the representative of the USSR, and that will be done.

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution II was adopted unanimously.*

*Draft resolution III was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution IV was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

77. The PRESIDENT: I shall now put the draft resolution contained in document A/2266 to the vote.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 48 votes to 6.*

78. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on the draft resolution contained in document A/2267.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 48 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

*The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.*