At its 36th plenary meeting, on 21 July 1997, the Economic and Social Council, having considered its resolution 1996/17 of 23 July 1996, in which it requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to act as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held in 1998, and in the light of progress made by the Commission in that capacity at its fortieth session, decided that, at its forty-first session, the Commission should meet for three days for its regular segment and five days for its special segment, on the understanding that, should the Commission be in a position to complete its regular segment earlier, it would immediately begin its special segment.