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Tenth session

Item 38

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSALS
BEFORE THE TENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The following summary of the financial implications of proposals being considered by the Council at its tenth session is presented in accordance with rule 33 of the Council's rules of procedure.
2. The Secretary-General draws the Council's attention to the financial significance of resolution 310 (IV) of the General Assembly (especially paragraphs 1 and 2) dealing with the problem of the proliferation and overlapping of the programmes of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

The Secretary-General also wishes to draw to the attention of the Council the fact that, in addition to the direct additional costs of proposals as presented in the appropriate statements of financial implications, a number of actions have the effect of increasing the work-load over wide sections of the Secretariat, and of establishing continuing commitments of the same kind in future years. Two items to which this consideration particularly applies are the implementation of economic and social recommendations, and the revised arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.
3. Attention is also called to the following provisions in the Council's own resolution 175 (VII):

"... That in normal circumstances work on any project entailing expenditure which cannot, without detriment to other work already in hand, be met within the current budget, will not be started within the current financial year;

"That if the Council wishes to recommend, in case of exceptional urgency, the allocation of funds to a particular project so that work can be started either before the next ordinary session of the General Assembly
/or after

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or after the Assembly has met but during the current financial year, a specific indication to the Secretary-General to that effect shall be included in the resolution approving such a project; and

"That resolutions of the Council shall, wherever appropriate, contain suitable wording to indicate the degree of urgency which the Council wishes attached to the project in question".

Financial summary

4. This summary is based upon individual statements made with respect to all proposals involving expenditures from United Nations funds which have been considered by the Council, and a few remaining items on which the Council has not yet taken final action.
5. The estimates shown for each item represent the total direct costs, such as salaries and related pay items, staff travel, travel of members of official bodies and printing.
6. The aggregate direct costs attributable to other proposals would total about \$200,000 for 1950 and just over \$100,000 for 1951.
7. Out of the total of \$200,000 shown for 1950, approximately \$30,000 are covered in the 1950 budget and \$123,360 relate to the costs required to hold the eleventh session of the Council at Geneva for which specific authorization exists under General Assembly resolution 357 (IV). The balance of approximately \$50,000 represents additional expenditures for which no provision yet exists.
8. The Secretary-General draws attention to the tabular summary at the end of this paper, particularly the column headed "Expenses to be incurred in 1950 for which no budgetary provisions made". Taking into account the provision of resolution 175 (VII) that "resolutions of the Council shall, wherever appropriate, contain suitable wording to indicate the degree of urgency which the Council wishes attached to the project in question", the Secretary-General wishes to place before the Council his understanding as to the Council's intention with respect to items shown in the tabular summary.

Upon an examination of the resolutions and the record of discussions, the Secretary-General understands that:

- (a) Concerning agenda item 23, the resolution (E/1624) is to be implemented in 1950, using funds already appropriated for the purpose by the General Assembly; and, concerning agenda item 36, the expenses in connexion with holding the eleventh session of the Council at Geneva are to be met from
/funds

funds which will be made available in accordance with General Assembly resolution 357 (IV).

(b) Concerning agenda item 11, part A of the resolution (E/1622) is intended by the Council to be undertaken as a matter of urgency, without waiting for the next regular session of the General Assembly, this intent being indicated in the resolution;

(c) In the case of agenda items 12, 13, 18 and 30 (ii), the resolutions adopted on UNSCOUR, Road and Motor Transport, the report of the Social Commission, and Review of consultative arrangements, respectively, are also intended to be implemented as matters of urgency, in that the Council wished the work to be started without waiting for the next regular session of the General Assembly, this intent being indicated in the pertinent records of discussion though not in the resolutions themselves.

(d) With respect to agenda item 35 on revision of rules of procedure of functional commissions and supplementary item 3, dealing with the interim report of the ad hoc Committee on Slavery, Council action is not yet completed, but it is assumed that the resolutions as finally adopted will provide a clear indication of the timing proposed.

9. For items of urgency, the Secretary-General will determine, in succeeding months, the extent to which such urgent expenses can be absorbed in the 1950 budget, either within the appropriate section, or upon concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, by a transfer of funds between sections. If it should prove impossible to absorb all the costs within the existing budget, the Secretary-General would have to make withdrawals from the Working Capital Fund, subject to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 357 (IV).

10. With respect to proposals applicable to 1951, the specific amounts involved would be incorporated in the 1951 budget estimates and submitted to the General Assembly for decision.

Tabular summary

Agenda item and reference	Expenses to be incurred in 1950 for which -			Financial implication for 1951
	Budgetary provision made	No Budgetary provision made	Total	
11. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (Paragraphs 17-21 of E/1573 and E/1622)	--	\$44,820	\$44,820	\$83,320
12. United Nations Confer- ence on Conservation and Utilization of Resources (E/1579/Add.1 and E/1627)	--	870	870	--
13. Road and Motor Trans- port (E/1559/Add.1 and E/1609)	--	11,600 ^{1/}	11,600 ^{1/}	11,600 ^{1/}
18. Report of the Social Commission (E/1568/ Add.1, E/1607/Add.1 and E/1631)	\$20,000	18,160	38,160	^{2/}
23. Implementation of recommendations on economic and social matters (E/1585/Add.1 and E/1624)	2,700	--	2,700	--
30(ii). Review of consulta- tive arrangements (E/1619/Add.2 and E/1646)	--	9,090 ^{3/}	9,090 ^{3/}	12,120
35. Revision of rules of procedure of functional com- missions (E/AC.28/ L.5 and E/L.12)	--	4,718 ^{4/}	4,718 ^{4/}	4,718
36. Calendar of con- ferences for 1950 (A/C.5/319)	--	123,360	123,360	--
Supp.3. Interim report of <u>ad hoc</u> Committee on Slavery (E/1617/ Add.1/Rev.1 and E/1617/Add.1/Rev.1/ Corr.1)	6,860	^{5/}	^{5/}	7,354

/Footnotes

Footnotes

- 1/ In the Council discussion, it was indicated that "it was intended to hold one meeting of experts in 1950 and not more than one or two in 1951". (Summary Record, 374th meeting, 8 February 1950.)
- 2/ Proposals for 1951 put forward by the fifth session of the Social Commission are to be considered again by the Commission at its sixth session.
- 3/ It is anticipated that the Secretary-General will be able to absorb this item within the existing appropriation.
- 4/ A draft resolution (E/L.12) not yet acted upon by the Council would require the revised rules to "come into force forthwith".
- 5/ The 1950 budget includes \$17,000 for this activity, of which \$3,500 is for printing, leaving a balance of \$13,500 for meeting purposes. The estimated balance still remaining out of the latter sum is \$6,860. This sum would be sufficient to cover a second meeting of the Committee in 1950, should the Committee's membership remain at four persons. If a fifth member were added and the meeting were held at Geneva, additional costs of about \$400 or \$500 beyond this sum would be involved.
