

state the truth, which was that if the cuts proposed were approved, the Secretary-General would not be able to carry out the obligations placed on him

by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

TWO HUNDREDTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday, 17 October 1949, at 10.54 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. KYROU (Greece).

Draft report of the Rapporteur

1. The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the draft report of the Fifth Committee on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/C.5/L.16) asked members who wished to comment on that document to get in touch with the Rapporteur before noon on 18 October 1949. If no comments were received by the Rapporteur by that time, the report would be submitted to one of the forthcoming plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

2. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Contributions, stated, in reply to a question by Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), that the Committee on Contributions had always borne in mind every factor which might help it in its work, including observations made at General Assembly and Committee debates.

Budget estimates for the financial year 1950: (a) budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/903); (b) reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/934) (*first reading, continued*)

PART II

SECTION 6 (*continued*)¹

3. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to documents A/1008, A/1021, A/C.5/314 and A/C.5/315 dealing with the question of the financial implications of the proposal submitted by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee regarding the United Nations Commission on Korea. The estimates submitted in document A/C.5/315 were the first of a series relating to various political missions which were grouped together under section 6 — Investigations and Inquiries. It would be noticed from the seventh report of 1949 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1021) that that body had recommended that the estimates should be approved at a figure of 320,300 dollars, or a reduction of 20,000 dollars from the Secretary-General's estimates given in A/C.5/315.

4. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said the Advisory Committee had very carefully examined the Secretary-General's estimates for the United Nations Commission on Korea, and had worked on the assumption that

the draft resolution adopted by the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee in that connexion (A/1008) would be approved by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee had reached the conclusion that a saving of 20,000 dollars could be made on subsistence allowance for members and alternate members. While an appropriation for observers had not yet been requested, the Advisory Committee felt it wise to point out that estimates submitted were exclusive of any provision for the implementation of clause (c) of paragraph 1 of the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee's draft resolution.

5. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) said the Secretary-General accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

6. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) stated that his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, but pointed out that the United Nations Commission on Korea would be unable to carry out its full duties unless it was granted further credits in the future. He wished to know whether the decision of the Fifth Committee was required merely for the information of the General Assembly, or whether the latter would reach a final decision on the appropriations to be made at the forthcoming plenary meeting. In the former case, the Fifth Committee would be in a position to modify later any decision it reached.

7. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that at the forthcoming plenary meeting of the General Assembly a decision would merely be taken on the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee's draft resolution. The necessary appropriations would be made later.

8. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that the position of his delegation regarding the United Nations Commission on Korea had been explained on several occasions. The USSR delegation considered that the setting up of such a Commission violated one of the most important provisions of the United Nations Charter concerning non-intervention in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. His delegation would therefore vote against the appropriations suggested.

9. Mr. TARN (Poland) supported the remarks of the USSR representative.

10. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee regarding the United Nations Commission on Korea, which had been accepted by the Secretary-General, reducing the latter's estimates to 320,300 dollars.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations were approved by 25 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions.

¹This section was previously considered at the 194th and 196th meetings.

11. Mr. KACJAN (Yugoslavia), explaining his vote, referred to the statements of his delegation in the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee and to the fact that it had voted against that Committee's draft resolution regarding the United Nations Commission on Korea. The Yugoslav delegation considered that such a Commission would neither be in the interests of the United Nations nor of the Korean peoples and would be an unnecessary burden on the budget. His delegation had therefore voted against the granting of credits to the Commission.

PART III

SECTION 12

12. Mr. GARCÍA (Guatemala) said that if the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions affected the efficiency of the work of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, his delegation would not support those reductions.

13. Mr. Hoo (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories) said his Department had asked for an increased number of posts, but after an exchange of views with the Secretary-General and the competent Department he had had to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Trusteeship Council's sessions were increasing in length, and in 1950 were expected to last at least sixteen weeks, thus placing an extra burden on the staff of the Department. Extra work was being placed on the Division of Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories as the information submitted by the various Administering Authorities was increasing. In the implementation of various General Assembly resolutions the secretariat of that Division had to analyse the information received and prepare various technical memoranda. He had agreed not to press for an increase in posts for 1950, having come to an understanding with the competent Department, by which some arrangements had been found so that the work of the Department would not suffer.

14. Mr. Hoo added that, although he had accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation for 1950, he reserved his right to ask for more posts in 1951.

15. The CHAIRMAN pointed out, in reply to a question by Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa), that the expenses involved in holding a session of the Trusteeship Council in Geneva would be dealt with at a later date.

16. Mr. WEBSTER (New Zealand) expressed appreciation of the Assistant Secretary-General's acceptance of the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

The Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the estimates of the Department for Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories should be reduced to 932,000 dollars.

PART III, SECTION 13 AND PART V, SECTION 21

17. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General regarding the budget estimates for the Department of Public Information (A/C.5/309).

18. Mr. ASHA (Syria) associated himself with the statements made by the Advisory Committee

regarding the Department of Public Information, and considered that the Department was unduly increasing its activities. He did not question the quality of the work carried out by the Department, but considered that a special committee should be set up to study the activities of the Department and to report back to the Fifth Committee. His delegation strongly supported the reductions suggested by the Advisory Committee in the budget of the Films and Visual Information Division (A/934, paragraph 107).

19. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) said that, although the Netherlands delegation did not underestimate the work of the Department of Public Information, it considered the budget estimates to be much too large. Paying tribute to the enthusiasm and competence with which the Department had carried out its work, he commented that it had been carried away by that enthusiasm. As the Advisory Committee had pointed out in its second report of 1948 (A/598)¹, it was clear that in the field of information it would be possible to spend an almost unlimited amount. The question to be determined was how far it was desirable to go at that stage, how much should be done, and how much money should be set aside for information programmes.

20. On previous occasions, when the Netherlands delegation had pointed out the necessity for establishing a limit to the information work carried on by the United Nations, it had been referred to General Assembly resolution 13 (I). The Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information had stated that his Department had never undertaken any activities which did not fall within the terms of that resolution. In the opinion of the Netherlands delegation, General Assembly resolution 13 (I) expressed an ideal, but the means at the disposal of the United Nations did not permit full implementation of that resolution immediately.

21. In 1948, the Netherlands delegation had submitted a proposal for the establishment of a percentage ceiling in connexion with the budget of this Department. That proposal had not been accepted, but the General Assembly, as a sovereign body, could at any time reconsider such a proposal. The Advisory Committee had the right and duty to draw the General Assembly's attention to the budget estimates and therefore his delegation had been surprised at the remarks made in document A/309 with reference to that Committee's recommendation.

22. The Netherlands delegation would not submit a new proposal, but hoped that it would be possible for the Committee to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion by less rigid means. He was confident that he had the support of other members of the Fifth Committee in stating that the Committee was faced with realities such as the reduced means which countries could place at the disposal of the United Nations in view of the increased burden on national treasuries caused by devaluation.

23. It would be necessary to ask whether the amount proposed for information and other activities was reasonable and justified. Delegations should not lose sight of the fact that information programmes, however important and desirable,

¹ See *Official Records of the third session of the General Assembly*, supplement No. 7A.

were only a means to an end, and not one of the substantial activities of the United Nations. That activity was meant to be supplementary to the work carried out by Governments and non-governmental information agencies. When studying the figures for sections 13 and 21 of the budget it should be remembered that those activities did not represent the only way in which the United Nations made itself known to the world. Many of its activities contributed to that end, and the more successful they were the less need there was for United Nations information services.

24. It was not the Netherlands delegation's intention to propose a change in the information policy laid down in General Assembly resolution 13 (I). The Fifth Committee should, however, indicate by its decisions on specific estimates the degree to which it was desirable to implement that policy at the current stage. The Committee should point out which activities it felt were more urgent and important than others. Such decisions would constitute guidance for the Secretary-General when he studied his budget estimate for the following year. The Committee could also point out which activities should be given priority, and decide upon the total figure to be established for the Department, leaving it to the Secretary-General and his staff to work out the details. At any rate, his delegation was in favour of a substantial reduction in sections 12 and 13.

25. The Netherlands delegation was not convinced that the reduction of ten posts on a total of over 300 would necessarily mean the cessation of certain services or a decrease in efficiency. Nor did it feel that a reduction in the radio programme should always be made to the detriment of a non-official language. On the contrary, countries in which one of the official languages was spoken enjoyed *ipso facto* so many privileges and advantages that reductions should be applied in the first place to them.

26. On more than one occasion, when observations or complaints had been made in a Committee regarding Press releases or other publications of the Department of Public Information and the information centres, the secretariat of the Committee had replied that that was a matter outside its competence. The Netherlands delegation considered that to be an entirely wrong approach. The public information services were part of the secretariat of the United Nations like any other service or department. It should therefore be sufficient for a Committee member to make an observation to a Committee Secretary on a Press release relating to a meeting without having to address himself to the Department of Public Information.

27. Mr. AZIZUDDIN (Pakistan) said his delegation shared the views of other members that the budget estimates were expanding to such an extent that certain under-developed countries might find themselves in a difficult position. He felt, however, that the Department of Public Information should bear in mind the fact that the need for publicizing the activities of the United Nations was much greater in the under-developed countries of Asia in general, and in the new dominions which had come into existence recently, than in those highly developed countries with efficient publicity services such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom and other European countries.

28. His delegation would vote in favour of the estimates of the Department of Public Information in the hope that the Secretary-General would consider the needs and requirements of under-developed countries in Asia.

29. Mr. KHOSROVANI (Iran) said he had been impressed by the fact that most delegations agreed that there was need for publicity and efficient machinery to bring the work of the United Nations before the peoples of the world.

30. He drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that nearly two-thirds of the estimates for the Department of Public Information was for salaries. The Department of Public Information had so far done little work in Iran in connexion with the distribution of information regarding the United Nations. In spite of the lack of co-operation shown by that Department, a non-governmental organization functioning in Iran had been most active in promoting international good-will and in informing the public about United Nations activities.

31. He considered that the Department could carry out much valuable work by means of radio programmes, bearing in mind the great percentage of illiteracy in the under-developed countries. Out of ninety hours a week of broadcasting by the United Nations only six hours were allocated to twenty-one non-official languages. Almost all publications of the United Nations were published in the official languages and many other privileges were enjoyed by countries speaking such languages. Broadcasting to countries not speaking the official languages should therefore receive greater attention.

32. In paragraph 110 of its second report of 1949 (A/934), the Advisory Committee stated: ". . . Other programme costs for radio should be reduced by \$45,250." That statement did not specify in which programme the reduction should be made.

33. In document A/C.5/309 it was stated that: "A reduction, as suggested of \$64,000 in the appropriations for broadcasting, would cripple particularly those parts of the programme activities which the Department of Public Information lately has endeavoured to develop. While the number of transmitting hours is set and accepted under present contracts, the only possibility of reduction would be the elimination of broadcasts in non-official languages . . ."

34. That was tantamount to saying that United Nations connexions with the greater part of the world would be cut off. He felt that the Advisory Committee's recommendation was misplaced and unjust to those countries which would be barred from their only means of direct information regarding the United Nations. His delegation strongly objected to the reduction in the appropriations for broadcasting, and would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations only if they were assured that reduction in broadcasting appropriations would not affect non-official language broadcasts.

35. Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) pointed out that the Secretary-General's revised estimate was lower than the estimates for the previous two years. That the reduction had been possible when a larger workload than before was being assumed, showed that great efforts had been made to systematize and rationalize the organization of the Department.

There was no evidence that an expansionist policy was being followed but only that the services were being maintained at their current level of efficiency. In the circumstances the Advisory Committee's recommendations were unacceptable, and the Cuban delegation would vote for the Secretary-General's revised estimate.

36. Mr. SHANN (Australia), having obtained the Chairman's permission to refer to section 21 of the Secretary-General's budget estimates relating to information centres, said that expenditure on public information services was still disproportionate to the United Nations budget. While costs for publicity were justified during the formative period of the United Nations, a steady reduction in the estimates for public information were to be looked for, once the organization was established and active.

37. With regard to the Advisory Committee's recommendations, he endorsed the proposals that certain posts mentioned in paragraph 108 and 109 should be reduced and that the budget for radio services should be reduced by 45,250 dollars. Savings might also be effected on the item relating to travel and subsistence of representatives of national and international organizations. Such representatives could contribute little to the work of the United Nations, and it did not seem necessary to provide their travel expenses. He also supported the recommendation for the discontinuation of the *Survey of Opinion on the United Nations* and for a more careful screening of the publication programme. A corollary to the suppression of the *Survey of Opinion* should be a reduction in article (xii) for subscriptions to telegraphic reports from news agencies.

38. The Australian delegation wished to make some observations on the work of the Department for the consideration of the Secretary-General. Firstly, much of its material was unsuitable for local presentation. Many radio scripts, radio recordings and some visual aid material and leaflets required revision before being presented to local audiences. The material was mainly prepared for a North American audience, or, if for other localities, often struck a false note. The information centres might take part in the production of material for the countries in which they were established and for use in United Nations publicity generally. The cost of such activities would often be lower than if the equivalent staff were installed at Lake Success. The centres should record local incidents and activities in support of the United Nations, not only for use locally, but in an effort to improve the production at headquarters of publicity media.

39. Delay in the transmission of radio material from New York should be avoided; radio networks should be in close contact with the United Nations radio division, and individual approaches discouraged.

40. The utility of photographs and films, especially certain film strips, should be investigated as recommended by the Advisory Committee. The work of the Films and Visual Information Division should be aimed at a wider audience, possibly through the following means:

41. The Film and Television Section of the United Nations might approach commercial producers with a view to production and distribution, in co-operation with the United Nations, of one

good film on a subject related to one aspect of United Nations work, but with an entertainment value suitable for commercial usage. Such a film would publicize United Nations work in a practical manner; many of the films currently distributed by the United Nations appealed to too limited an audience. National film units of Member States might be able to shoot films for the United Nations at a relatively low cost, and supply unused footage from suitable films they themselves had produced. Inquiries might also be made as to the suitability of preparing film strips for use in schools.

42. A more effective method for the distribution of photographs than that currently employed would be through orders placed by representatives from Members' permanent missions to the United Nations.

43. Much could be done to increase the sale of United Nations publications. It was important that early distribution of catalogues of publications available to sales agents should be made. The information centres should be able to supply order and subscription forms for such publications as the *United Nations Bulletin*. A book week, a children's book week, a "United Nations Day" and a "United Nations Week" as well as conferences in Member countries should all be used to advantage. The information centres had an important part to play in the sale of publications, and should participate more actively in sales campaigns. They might arrange visits to sales agents, check on their methods and the care they took in handling orders; they should invite sales agents to visit the information centre for screenings of United Nations films and to hear talks on current United Nations work and methods of publicity. They should assist agents with currency problems and customs clearance, and give encouragement and help in the preparation of special displays of United Nations publications. It should be possible to arrange for displays of suitable publications together with visual material at important conferences on international affairs. Occasional guidance and suggestions along these lines should be the subjects for discussion with Government departments concerned.

44. Through the above suggestions it might be possible to effect economies in the budget of the Department of Public Information and to rationalize its organization. The Australian delegation appreciated the great importance of the part played by that Department, but considered that the proposed budget reflected a misconception of what that part should be, for the Department should move progressively from the field of propaganda to that of solid information.

45. Mr. GARCÍA (Guatemala) endorsed the remarks made by the representatives of Cuba and Iran. He added that the man-in-the-street lacked confidence in the United Nations, mainly because its activities were publicized principally for their sensational value, so that the Organization appeared to be merely a forum for verbal conflict. So far the Department of Public Information had been unable to counteract the ill effects of that publicity by publicizing other and more constructive activities of the United Nations. It was not the time to withdraw support from the Department, rather the contrary, but the tendency to centralization should be avoided and more attention devoted to the less developed areas of the

world. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were stated in the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/C.5/307) to be likely to hamper the work of the Department; he suggested, therefore, that the Secretary-General's revised estimate should be accepted, subject to the request that a more satisfactory programme should be prepared for the following year along the lines suggested by the members of the Committee.

46. Mr. DE HOLTE CASTELLO (Colombia) said that the attitude of his delegation to the activities of the Department of Public Information had been made clear during the previous two sessions of the General Assembly.¹ He would not repeat those statements, but would endorse the recent observations made by the representatives of Iran, Guatemala and Cuba. He congratulated the Secretary-General on his efforts to reduce the appropriation required and said he would vote for the sum of 3,306,000 dollars, which appeared to be the minimum figure permitting the efficient functioning of the Department.

47. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) concluded from previous speeches that it was generally accepted that the expenditure of the Department of Public Information was too high in relation to the total budget, and should be reduced. He considered the Secretary-General's estimate to be too high, as the work could be done on the budget recommended by the Advisory Committee, by the elimination of the unnecessary activities described in paragraph 107 of its report. The film contracts, which had apparently kept expenditure high during the previous two years, should have expired, with a consequent reduction of the large sum devoted to article (ix). Reductions could also be made in the expenditure on publications. If Member States did not want the publications enough to pay for them, it was doubtful whether they had any value or effect. The large sum of 3,306,000 dollars could be reduced to 3,194,000 dollars without affecting the work of the Department, and he would vote for that reduction.

48. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) emphasized that a limit must be drawn by financial ability to the unquestionably valuable work of the Department of Public Information. He agreed with the comments made by the representative of the Netherlands concerning the relative proportion of the budget to be devoted to public information, and regretted that the Secretary-General had been unable to accept the principle of a ceiling to expenditure. He would not press that point, but would welcome a fuller explanation of the Secretary-General's position at the next session. During the past four years the Department had been able to lay the foundations of its work and acquaint public opinion with the principles and activities of the United Nations, and now its expenses should show a considerable reduction.

49. The Advisory Committee had proposed the elimination of the *Survey of Opinion*, a proposal with which his delegation concurred, having concluded on investigation that it served no very useful purpose.

50. His delegation would also welcome an assurance that reports from information centres would be sent in by airmail.

51. Furthermore, he felt that Press releases would be more valuable if they always reached delegations not more than twenty-four hours after they were issued. Although most releases were available in that time, some were delayed for a considerable time and so lost their value.

52. Referring to section 21, he questioned the necessity for an information centre in Washington, when the New York Information Centre was so close. If a second centre were required in the United States, it might more suitably be located somewhere on the West coast.

53. In conclusion, he said it could not be too strongly emphasized that the prestige of the United Nations did not depend primarily on its information service but on its own achievements. The budget devoted to that information service should, therefore, be maintained at a reasonable level, and he would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommended figure.

54. Mr. TARN (Poland) thought that the objectives pursued by the Department of Public Information were too broad, being mainly (1) to reach the broad masses in both Member and non-Member States, and (2) to supply information to the local Press and radio in those countries.

55. It had been pointed out earlier in the meeting that information sent to headquarters by local information centres often arrived late; if such information did arrive in time to be used, there was a certain lack of objectivity in the way in which it was rewritten for circulation at headquarters. He would quote one example from his own country. Mr. Dodd, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, on his visit to Poland, had given a Press conference in Warsaw, on which the Warsaw Information Centre had issued a *communiqué*, forwarded simultaneously to both the European office at Geneva and to headquarters. The Geneva Press release (FAO/5 of 8 July 1949) had reproduced correctly a paragraph in which Mr. Dodd said that in Poland "an admirable job had been done in populating the vast western land expanses, in developing farming, and raising crops and new livestock". The headquarters Press release (FAO/364 of 9 July 1949) had rendered this as "an admirable job in developing land resources, increasing food production and adding to livestock herds", all reference to the work in the recovered territories — the essential point from the Polish Government's point of view — being suppressed. Since everything else in the speech had been included, the omission would seem to be more than a mere error. There had been some complaint that the information centres were late in sending information to the Press and radio; if information which the centres themselves supplied was distorted, it put the activities of the Department in question in a strange light.

56. The Department's policy of reaching the broad masses was to some extent accomplished by its radio services, but otherwise it would seem that the programme was too ambitious, even in the United States. Despite numerous press releases, representatives' speeches did not always reach the Press. The speech of Mr. Vyshinsky on 11 October 1949, although over an hour long, and listened to with great interest by the Press, received no mention in the *New York Times* or in the *New York Herald-Tribune*. It was difficult for the Department of Public Information to

¹ See *Official Records of the second session of the General Assembly*, Fifth Committee, 50th and 62nd meetings, and *Official Records of the third session of the General Assembly, Part I*, Fifth Committee, 131st meeting.

reach the local Press, if the latter did not cooperate to some extent.

57. The representative of Poland stated that the Department's objectives could with advantage be narrowed. In cases where the Department attempted both to reach the masses and to supply information simultaneously, it did not succeed in either objective. The *United Nations Bulletin*, an item which showed a deficit of 77,000 dollars, was a good example; if intended only for the Press it could have been printed on simple paper, without photographs, and could have been a summary of speeches rather than a magazine. As issued, it showed both what the Department tried to achieve and what it was capable of achieving.

58. The Polish delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and would vote for its recommendations.

59. Mr. HALIQ (Saudi Arabia) associated himself with the views expressed by the representatives of Pakistan and Iran. A reduction in the budget should not be allowed to mean a decrease in public information work in the Middle East, which was in this respect the United Nations best customer, and was vitally interested in such questions as Palestine, the Balkans, and the former Italian Colonies. Yet the flow of information to the Middle East was lamentably inadequate; radio material supplied was used by nine or ten stations and still did not satisfy demand. There was a positive hunger for United Nations news and the service should be expanded. While it was true that in that part of the world information by radio was more effective than by the Press, there should at least be a good Arabic translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Department of Public Information, if it were to fulfil its obligations, must bear in mind the needs of the Middle East and a provision should be made for an expansion of the Department's activities in that region.

60. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) pointed out that the Department of Public Information was the third Secretariat Department on which the Committee had found it difficult to reach agreement. In the case of the other two, however — the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs — the Secretary-General's revisions had been made as a result of new decisions by the Economic and Social Council entailing new tasks for the Secretariat of those Departments. In the case of the Department of Public Information there was no United Nations organ to provide it with additional tasks. The Department was not, however, asking for an increase. The Secretary-General's compromise proposal allowed for a reduction of 17,000 dollars below the 1949 appropriation. Of the actual amount requested, the sum of 48,000 dollars owing to the United States Government for radio time covered the full cost of transmitting time, whereas in previous years charge had been made for only part of the time used. The reduction in expenditure, therefore, really amounted to 65,000 dollars.

61. The subjects of disagreement were: established posts, travel and radio. In the case of the latter, once the amount of 48,000 dollars payable to the State Department was discounted, the increase was seen to be very small. The Brazilian delegation could not accept reduction in allocations for such an effective publicity medium, espe-

cially if, as the Secretary-General had stated, that cut would affect broadcasts in non-official languages.

62. As for established posts, the Department of Public Information was not asking for an increase in numbers but rather was decreasing the number. Since it might be concluded that with any more cuts efficiency would suffer, the Committee, if it imposed a reduction in staff, should also specify the fields in which the reduction was to be made. Indiscriminate reduction was fast approaching the point where it would produce inefficiency. If the Department was to continue to function it must do so at an efficient level. The Advisory Committee had directed its comment toward branches of work rather than towards efficiency, doubtless because it was clear that the Department was running efficiently.

63. He allowed that delegations might question the Department's usefulness, especially those from countries with their own Press, radio and Government information services. Most of the older countries had such services, and the United Nations should not have to rely solely on its own efforts for publicity.

64. In conclusion the Brazilian representative asked the Assistant Secretary-General whether the proposed reduction of 57,000 dollars would adversely affect those countries speaking a non-official language, and if that were not so, what the reductions implied; it was obvious that unless the Committee decided otherwise, decision in the matter would rest with the Secretary-General.

65. He also asked whether the reduction of 50,000 dollars, proposed for established posts, was aimed specifically at certain information services or whether it would mean merely a general decrease in efficiency. If a reduction in *services* were intended, the Committee should itself decide which were the ones to be reduced, taking into account the nature of the services and the countries for which they were intended.

66. Mr. CRISTÓBAL (Philippines) reminded the meeting that in the general debate his delegation had expressed disagreement with the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee. The difference between the Advisory Committee's recommendations and the Secretary-General's revised estimates amounted to 112,000 dollars. Personnel numbers had risen from 307 in 1948, through 311 in 1949, to the proposed 312 in 1950 — a slight increase when compared with the great expansion in activities that had taken place. The result of the Advisory Committee's recommendations would be the discharge of nine employees, an event sad in itself, but entirely unjustified if no other reason than economy could be found for it, that is, if the posts were not at the same time proved to be superfluous. Contrary to other departments, the Department of Public Information was asking only for its personnel to be kept at the existing level.

67. The proposed reduction would mean curtailing the broadcasts in non-official languages, an economy not to be commended, since those parts of the world which spoke such languages were entitled to hear United Nations information, and what other means did there exist for that purpose?

68. While respecting the opinion of the Advisory Committee, which it had previously always endorsed, the Philippines delegation, in the matter

under discussion, supported the Secretary-General's revised estimates.

69. Mr. BADANO (Uruguay) associated himself with the views expressed by the representatives of Cuba, Guatemala, Pakistan and Colombia, and would support the Secretary-General's revised estimates. He based his position on the importance of the mission of the Department of Public Information; although higher expenditure necessarily entailed higher contributions from Member States, the Uruguayan delegation felt that any expenditure intended to bring to the peoples of the world the United Nations ideals of harmony and culture was justified, since the more people were acquainted with those ideals, the more they would understand and support them. There should be no economizing when it was a question of strengthening democracy and international peace. The Uruguayan delegation, therefore, supported the Secretary-General's revised proposals.

70. Mr. COOPER (United States of America) reserved his position until he heard the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and the Assistant Secretary-General. One item with which he hoped they would deal was the allocation for radio services; the United States delegation shared the opinion of those representatives who had spoken in favour of retaining broadcasts in non-official languages where such broadcasts were needed to reach the population of Member States, believing that one of the greatest hopes for the United Nations lay in creating a strong public opinion. If a reduction in appropriations would result in a reduction of broadcasts in non-official languages, the United States delegation, although agreeing with the Advisory Committee in other respects, would support a motion to restore to the budget the amount required for such broadcasts. In that connexion, the United States representative asked the Assistant Secretary-General to quote the exact sum required.

71. Mr. DURÁN BALLÉN (Ecuador) reiterated the view of his delegation, put forward at previous discussions on the Department of Public Information,¹ that the existing level of expenditure should be maintained. He associated himself with the views expressed by the representatives of Iran, Cuba and Guatemala, and supported the revised estimates of the Secretary-General.

72. Mr. WITHERSPOON (Liberia) congratulated the Department of Public Information on its organizational regrouping, the success of which was proved by the absence from the debate of criticism of the Department's organization. The troubles of the world were the result of want in many forms, including the want of information. An informed world public opinion would help to assure the progress of the United Nations. In view, therefore, of the Secretary-General's statement that "a reduction in appropriations for broadcasting would cripple particularly those parts of the programme activities which the Department of Public Information had lately endeavoured to develop" (A/C.5/309), the Liberian delegation supported the Secretary-General's revised estimates.

73. The Jam Saheb of NAWANAGAR (India) likened the Department of Public Information to

Oliver Twist, but whereas the latter had only a "limited vacuum" to fill, the Department of Public Information's vacuum was the whole world.

74. Although his delegation usually supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Indian representative would, in the matter under discussion, associate himself with the delegations of Guatemala, Pakistan and Iran, and vote against the proposed reductions.

75. Mr. FARRAG (Egypt) repeated his remark, made at the 194th meeting, that the United Nations was not a private concern. The time had come to place a ceiling upon the activities of the Department of Public Information and to reduce its expenditure, perhaps to an even greater extent than that recommended by the Advisory Committee. In supporting the latter's recommendations, he called the Committee's attention to the number of vacant posts in the Department in question, asking how long those posts had been vacant, and what sum was allotted to their upkeep.

76. Mr. HENRÍQUEZ UREÑA (Dominican Republic) paid a tribute to the work of the Department of Public Information, work which he thought should be intensified rather than diminished; certainly the level should be maintained. Where the Department had fallen short of perfection the reason was, he was convinced, due to human error; he could find a parallel in his own experience for the omissions quoted by the representative of Poland but, being himself a journalist, he could appreciate the difficulties involved.

77. His delegation would support the Secretary-General's revised estimates.

78. Mr. SMOLYAR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) reminded the meeting that the Department of Public Information was not dependent on concrete decisions of the General Assembly or its organs, as were other Departments, and that therefore its activities, unrestricted in such a way, could be multiplied indefinitely. It might, of course, be possible to limit the number of films produced or of books published during a given period, but a more practical method was by manipulation of budgetary allotments.

79. In the course of the general debate on the 1950 budget, nearly all delegations had spoken in favour of reductions in expenditure, but those voices had not been heard when the budget was being discussed section by section; indeed even the modest reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee had received little support.

80. The fact that estimates for the Department of Public Information were lower than for the previous year by 17,000 dollars did not constitute a serious argument. Neither did the Secretary-General's statement that if his figure was not adopted, broadcasts in non-official languages might have to be curtailed, a statement which had the ring of an ultimatum. The Committee had the right, in the light of the interests of many Governments, to insist that such curtailments should not take place.

81. The Byelorussian delegation would, therefore, support the Advisory Committee's recommendations, as it did all proposals for reduction in expenditure.

¹ See *Official Records of the third session of the General Assembly, Part I, Fifth Committee, 134th meeting.*

82. Mr. ASHA (Syria), quoting the Secretary-General's statement that "the adoption of the Advisory Committee's recommendations would represent a deviation from the policy previously laid down by the General Assembly regarding Public Information, and would call for a reversal

of the directives so far adopted" (A/C.5/309), requested the Assistant Secretary-General briefly to recapitulate those directives, so that the Committee might judge whether a reversal of policy was really involved.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday, 17 October 1949, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. KYROU (Greece).

Budget estimates for the financial year 1950: (a) budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/903); (b) reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/934) (first reading continued)

PART III

SECTION 13 (concluded)

1. Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) recalled that for a long time his delegation had not shared the Secretary-General's opinion regarding the Department of Public Information. It felt that the latter was influenced too much by commercial factors to carry out its work of making known the aims and activities of the United Nations. Publicity which called attention constantly to the existence of the United Nations on the wireless, in the Press and at the cinema was useless and costly. The only true publicity for the United Nations was the results it achieved. For that reason, the Belgian delegation considered that the Department of Public Information should engage in more reasonable and genuine publicity. The Department should lay less stress on debates, which were often unproductive, and should devote more time to explaining certain questions studied by the United Nations as, for example, the problem of security, the atomic energy question, the Palestine question, or the problem of technical assistance, emphasizing in the case of the last-named the importance of capital investments. He felt that, in that field, the Department of Public Information could carry out very useful work, and might publish brochures of the type published by the information section of the League of Nations. Those very objective statements could point out the conditions under which problems were examined as well as their various phases and future prospects.

2. He emphasized that he had been struck by the statements of some delegations which, because the information services in their own countries were insufficiently developed, wished to continue to be kept informed of the work of the United Nations, as in the past, by the Department of Public Information. He feared that those delegations would receive a rude awakening if they judged the effectiveness of the United Nations by the number of words, texts and pictures supplied by the Department of Public Information.

3. He had made his various remarks only in passing as he felt, like the representatives of the Netherlands and of Syria, that it would be advisable to hold a general discussion on the ques-

tion of information. Contrary to what was stated in the budget estimates, no General Assembly resolution really defined the terms of reference of the Department of Public Information. The first General Assembly had simply given very wide directives which were not a sufficient basis. But the time had not come to open such a discussion which, moreover, might take place in another Committee. At the moment the Fifth Committee was called upon to study the very different question of whether the credits asked for by the Secretary-General were absolutely necessary to enable the Department of Public Information to carry out its work properly in accordance with the Secretary-General's preconceived idea. In that connexion the Committee was faced with two different opinions: that of the Secretary-General, which appeared in document A/C.5/309, and that of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, which appeared in its report (A/934). The Belgian delegation would be inclined to favour the Advisory Committee's opinion, but had not yet reached a definite decision. For that reason it would like to have some additional explanations from the Assistant Secretary-General. It had been struck by the peremptory tone of certain phrases contained in document A/C.5/309. It was said, for example, that "the adoption of the Committee's recommendations would, in the Secretary-General's opinion, represent a deviation from the policy previously laid down by the General Assembly regarding public information". The General Assembly had never laid down an exact policy for the Department of Public Information; it had merely laid down general principles. Reference was also made to a "reversal of the directives so far adopted". But how could the reductions of the type suggested by the Advisory Committee reverse directives "so far adopted"? That was difficult to believe. The same could be said of the Secretary-General's statement that "the reduction proposed would mean the abolishment of certain services now performed by the Department of Public Information, and the limitation of other services".

4. Mr. Lebeau asked the Assistant Secretary-General whether he could not reconsider such categorical statements and whether he could not consider a compromise figure between the one which he had proposed and the one recommended by the Advisory Committee. In that case, the Belgian delegation would be ready to vote for an intermediate figure likely to receive the support of other delegations and to be approved unanimously.

5. Mr. DE FREITAS (United Kingdom) pointed out that his delegation was not making a general criticism of the working of the Department of