



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 83

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations International School (A/6507) and the report of the Board of Trustees annexed thereto.
2. Under the authorization contained in General Assembly resolution 2123 (XX) of 21 December 1965, the Secretary-General signed a ninety-nine-year lease with the City of New York for a three-acre site for the new School at a rental of \$1.00 per annum at 25th Street and Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive. While pre-construction work is progressing satisfactorily, rising construction costs have required revisions to the general design and layout of the School to keep the cost of the building within the limits of the funds available. The main revision concerns a reduction in the size of the building to accommodate 1,200 students instead of 1,500 students, as originally planned.
3. However, the most intractable problem currently confronting the School is raising the endowment or the Development Fund to the \$3 million target level to ensure the School's financial independence. In order to expedite donations, in February 1966 the Secretary-General appointed a personal representative to contact Governments of Member States, interpret the concept and purposes of the School and stimulate contributions. Notwithstanding all efforts in this direction, the results to date have been very disappointing. The number of Governments which have pledged cash contributions has reached only forty as compared with the twenty-eight reported last year and the amount of contributions only \$316,233 as compared with \$255,292 last year. Four additional Governments have promised equipment or building materials, but these are not readily assessable in monetary terms at this time.

Commitments of private individuals or non-governmental organizations now stand at \$698,380, making a total mount pledged of \$1,014,613, or approximately one third of the minimum required. This represents a decrease of \$218,125 as compared with last year, owing to certain adjustments during the year in the pledges reported by the Board of Trustees.^{1/}

Comments of the Advisory Committee

4. On several occasions in the past the Advisory Committee has emphasized the necessity of establishing a development fund adequate to ensure the School's financial independence. The Committee stressed that without such a fund the School would in all likelihood continue to call upon the General Assembly each year to take measures to deal with an operating deficit.

5. In its report on this subject last year^{2/} the Advisory Committee, noting that some 41 per cent of the target amount had been received or pledged and that an acceptable site having only token financial implications had finally been agreed upon, suggested that the General Assembly might wish to endorse^{3/} the Board's request to proceed with the plans and specifications for the buildings so that the School could move into the new premises in time for the 1968-1969 academic year. At the same time, the Committee drew the Assembly's attention to the opinion expressed by the Board that no further substantial contributions could be expected from private voluntary sources until the Governments of Member States contributed a significant proportion of the Development Fund.^{4/} The Committee therefore endorsed the Secretary-General's plea and hope that Member States would give concrete evidence of their support for the School and see their way clear to contributing generously to the Fund, thereby securing financial viability for the School prior to its dedication.

6. Given the situation as now reported by the Secretary-General and the Board of Trustees, the Advisory Committee must register its concern regarding the present

^{1/} A/6507, annex.

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 86, document A/6113, para. 15.

^{3/} Subsequently authorized under General Assembly resolution 2123 (XX) of 21 December 1965.

^{4/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 86, document A/6079, annex, para. 12.

level of the Development Fund and the measure of financial or other support for the School so far received from Governments of Member States. The Committee therefore would join with the Secretary-General in expressing the earnest hope that Member Governments will respond in full measure at this critical juncture so that the School may be financially independent when it moves to its new premises. The Committee would also draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's report (A/6507), in which he states that if the minimum goal is not reached by August 1967 he will feel obliged to recommend other measures at the twenty-second session of the Assembly.

7. In this connexion it is relevant to note that in its report to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session, the Advisory Committee stated its understanding that in favouring the principle of the construction of a permanent school through voluntary contributions, the Assembly was in no way committed to provide any funds from the budget of the Organization should the voluntary contributions fall short of requirements.^{5/}

8. In paragraph 8 of his report to the present session (A/6507) the Secretary-General refers to the estimated deficit of \$48,900 in the operating costs of the School for the academic year 1966-1967 and expresses the hope that the General Assembly will find it possible to make an appropriate grant to the International School Fund for 1967 to cover this deficit. The Advisory Committee would recall that from 1949 onwards the Assembly made a series of grants to the School in the form of rent payments. Subsequently, under the terms of resolution 1439 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 and of later resolutions,^{6/} the Assembly provided financial assistance to the School for a period of five years to cover its operating deficits. The Assembly has since, in resolutions 2003 (XIX) and 2123 (XX), extended its approval to cover the years 1965 and 1966. Thus the assistance granted to the School to cover its operating deficit for the period 1960-1966 amounts to \$457,000, including \$78,700 to the Fund for the purpose of forwarding plans for permanent accommodation.

9. The Advisory Committee, therefore, while supporting all possible measures to raise the necessary voluntary contributions to ensure the financial viability of the

^{5/} Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 68, document A/5625, para. 9.

^{6/} Resolutions 1591 (XV), 1727 (XVI), 1853 (XVII) and 1982 (XVIII).

School, is concerned equally with obviating any future charges to the regular budget of the Organization once the new School becomes operative. Accordingly, the Committee suggests that the General Assembly may wish to reconsider its policy of providing financial assistance to cover the operating deficit of the School when it is transferred to the new premises. In making the suggestion to the Assembly at this time the Advisory Committee is also motivated by the desire to encourage further voluntary contributions to the Fund so that the School may be economically independent when it is moved to its new premises. The Committee would reiterate its belief that the School should be expected to achieve a balanced budget and consequently to require no further assistance from the Assembly. Perhaps the School needs to consider additional measures for achieving this requirement.

10. As regards the estimated deficit of \$48,900 for the academic year 1966-1967, the General Assembly, as in past years, may wish to follow the suggestion of the Secretary-General and make a grant to the International School Fund for 1967 to cover this operating deficit.
