

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



GENERAL

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Fifth session

Agenda item 20 (c) and (d)

PALESTINE

- (c) REPATRIATION OF PALESTINE REFUGEES AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION DUE TO THEM; IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION REGARDING THIS QUESTION
- (d) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

Financial implications of the draft resolution proposed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee (A/1646)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. B.G. FOURIE (Union of South Africa)

1. In accordance with rule 152 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the request of the President in his letter dated 7 December 1950 to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/437), the Fifth Committee, at its 278th meeting held on 11 December 1950, considered the financial implications of the draft resolution adopted by the Ad Hoc Political Committee concerning the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine and the question of the repatriation of Palestine refugees, including the payment of compensation due to them (A/1646).
2. The Fifth Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/440), together with the thirty-sixth report of 1950 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1653). The Secretary-General estimated that, for the purpose of continuing in 1951 the activities of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, with the additional tasks assigned to it under the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee, budgetary provision would be required in the amount of \$716,800 under chapter V

of section 5 of the budget estimates and \$7,000 under chapter V of section 25 (Contractual printing). These estimates took account also of the resolution adopted by the Security Council at its 524th meeting on 17 November 1950, providing for the continuation of the supervision of the four Mixed Armistice Commissions by the United Nations Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization, and requesting the latter to report periodically to the Security Council on all decisions made by the four Mixed Armistice Commissions. It was explained by the Secretary-General in his report to the Fifth Committee that his estimates were on the same basis as for 1950, except for the addition of three persons to the staff of the Conciliation Commission for the purpose of implementing paragraph 2 of the resolution proposed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee, under which the Commission is directed to establish an office to deal with repatriation and compensation of Palestine refugees.

3. The Advisory Committee expressed the view that an adjustment of subsistence allowances for observers as from 1 January 1951 should be effected, with a consequent saving of approximately \$15,000 and that further savings should be possible on the proposed expenditures for temporary assistance and miscellaneous supplies and contractual services. Accordingly, it recommended that provision should be made in the 1951 budget in the amount of \$700,090, representing a reduction of \$23,800 on the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General. The Fifth Committee was informed that offsetting revenue estimated at \$38,000 would accrue in respect of contributions under the Staff Assessment Plan. The hope was also expressed by the Advisory Committee that the detailed field survey of the administrative arrangements in force both for the Conciliation Commission and the Truce Supervision Organization which the Secretary-General intended to undertake during 1951 would result in staff economies, together with reductions in other expenditures.

4. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation did not approve of the resolution recommended by the Ad Hoc Political Committee, under which new tasks would be assigned to the Palestine Conciliation Commission, in view of the fact that, since its establishment in 1948, this Commission had failed to carry out the duties entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Since no results had so far been achieved, the USSR delegation had proposed in the Ad Hoc Political Committee

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that the Conciliation Commission should be dissolved, and he would therefore be compelled to vote against the provision of any further appropriations for this activity. The representative of Israel, in explanation of his vote, stated that his delegation would abstain in view of its objection to the provisions of sub-paragraph 2(c) of the Ad Hoc Political Committee's draft resolution.

5. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee were approved by 30 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions.

6. The Fifth Committee therefore decided to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee would require budgetary provision to be made in 1951 in the amount of \$700,000.
