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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1957

Revised estimates for section 13

Temporary assistance and consultants

Twenty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the eleventh session of the General Assembly

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/677) proposing additional provision to an amount of \$110,000 under section 13 - Temporary assistance and consultants - of the 1957 budget in order to meet the 1957 portion of the cost of engaging temporary staff for the current, eleventh session of the General Assembly.
2. In submitting revised 1957 estimates (A/C.5/663) in respect of decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1956 sessions, the Secretary-General stated that certain related temporary assistance costs not covered by the submission in question would be taken into account in the revisions of the overall 1957 requirements under section 13 to be made principally in the light of the extension into 1957 of the eleventh Assembly session. The Advisory Committee understands that, while the revised estimates now presented in respect of section 13 are limited to the requirements of the 1957 part of the eleventh Assembly session, any temporary assistance costs that may arise in connexion with the economic and social projects under reference (A/C.5/663) will be met, without specific provision, out of the funds available in section 13.
3. As regards the eleventh regular session of the Assembly as a whole, the Secretary-General estimates temporary assistance requirements at \$225,000 of which \$115,000 will be required in 1956 and the balance of \$110,000 in 1957.

The 1956 portion will be covered by the amount of \$120,000 already appropriated in that year's budget. For 1957, however, an additional amount of \$110,000 will be needed as the initial 1957 estimates did not provide for the prolongation into 1957 of the eleventh session.

4. The initial provision of \$120,000 included in the 1956 appropriations, the estimates for which were prepared before the middle of 1955, was based on actual experience at the ninth (1954) session of the Assembly, when expenditure for temporary assistance totalled some \$126,000. The Advisory Committee is informed, however, that the 1954 figure reflects the fact that it was possible in that year - prior to the completion of the re-organization of the Secretariat - to assign a substantial number of staff from various departments to Assembly work. The progressive reduction of the establishment to the target levels generally approved by the Assembly has rendered such temporary assignments of staff increasingly difficult, with the result that during the tenth (1955) session of the Assembly, expenditure for temporary assistance amounted to a total of about \$180,000.

5. On the basis of the closing date of 15 February 1957, the current session, including a recess of nine days, will exceed in duration the tenth (1955) session by about one week and, if the rate of expenditure is approximately that of 1955, will entail costs of some \$200,000.

6. In his earlier memorandum to the Advisory Committee, to which reference is made in paragraph 2 of his report (A/C.5/677), the Secretary-General estimated the costs, on the basis of a sixteen-week session of the Assembly (inclusive of the recess), at about \$235,000. The costs corresponding to a fourteen-week session (assuming the same average rate of expenditure) would be some \$205,000.

7. On the basis of the observations in paragraphs 4 to 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that an additional provision of \$90,000, representing a reduction of \$20,000 in the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General, should be included in the appropriations under section 13 of the 1957 budget.
