



Fifteenth session
Agenda item 56

UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. T.W. CUTTS (Australia)

1. In its resolution 1354 (XIV) of 3 November 1959, the General Assembly, in accepting the generous offer of the Ford Foundation of a gift of \$6,200,000 for the construction, furnishing and equipping of a new building to house the United Nations Library at Headquarters, requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session regarding the level of library resources and services that should be made available to ensure that the new Library might be used to the best possible advantage, and to report on the progress of development and construction of the new building.

2. The report of the Secretary-General (A/4545) was considered by the Fifth Committee at its 794th meeting on 17 November 1960. On the progress of the construction, the report indicated that the new building would be completed in November 1961. As regards the desirable level of library resources and services, the Secretary-General reported that, on the basis of various studies and the expert advice of four eminent librarians, he considered the future development of the Library should be along the lines and of the magnitude suggested in his 1959 report.^{1/} More specifically, he considered that modest staff increases should be made in each of the next few years to raise the library establishment from the present eighty-nine (professional, general service and manual posts) to an eventual total of about 125. The establishment should also be strengthened in terms of the classification of the posts. To increase the collection from the

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 72, document A/4231, para. 30.

present 200,000 volumes to the recommended optimum of 400,000 volumes, the present annual acquisition rate should be approximately doubled. This would entail an increase of about \$50,000 in the annual expenditure on the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and other material.

3. The representative of the Secretary-General reminded the Committee that the 1961 budget estimates had provided for a very limited increase in the Library's staff and resources. While the Advisory Committee and, in turn, the Fifth Committee had not believed it necessary to provide for an increase in the Secretariat manning table specifically for the Library needs, he assumed that this did not preclude a modest strengthening of the Library resources in 1961, if that proved feasible within the limits of the total authorized establishment.

ACTION BY THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

4. The Fifth Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/4545) on the understanding that the long-term programme for the development of the Library resources and services set out therein would be the subject of review and report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in connexion with its review of the budget estimates for 1962 and subsequent years. It was also agreed that the Committee's report to the General Assembly should reflect suggestions made in the course of the discussion that:

- (a) The development of United Nations library services generally might be studied by the Committee of Experts on the Review of the Activities and Organization of the Secretariat;
- (b) The improvement of library facilities of information centres would be considered by the Advisory Committee for report to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session.
