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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1957

Revised estimates for section 3

Ad Hoc Committee of Experts in the Field of Prevention of Crime  
and the Treatment of Offenders

Eighteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary  
Questions to the eleventh session of the General Assembly

1. The Secretary-General has submitted (A/C.5/672/Rev.1) a revision of the 1957 estimates under section 3 - Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees - to provide, at an estimated cost of \$5,350, for a session, to be held at Geneva in 1957, of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts in the Field of Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.
2. The Ad Hoc Committee is part of a complex machinery designed to assist the United Nations in carrying out the responsibilities in the field of prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders which the Organization took over from the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (General Assembly resolution 415(V) of 1 December 1950). Other elements in this machinery include the following: appointment of national correspondents; organization of regional consultative meetings and of a Quinquennial World Congress; publication of an International Review as well as a legislative and administrative series in this field; assignment of one staff member to the United Nations Office at Geneva; completion of various special projects (see annex A to resolution 415(V)).
3. During 1954, the Secretary-General's Survey Group on the organization of the Secretariat expressed the opinion that this machinery "is more complex than is strictly necessary to meet United Nations objectives in this field" (report of the

Survey Group, 1954, paragraph 107). In the same year the Secretary-General, in reviewing the organization and work of the Secretariat in the economic and social fields (E/2598, paragraph 17<sup>1/</sup>), called for renewed attention, in the light of the then impending Quinquennial Congress of 1955 and of the general experience gained in this field, to the periodicity of the regional consultative meetings.

4. The Advisory Committee considers it important that a review should be undertaken of the responsibilities assumed by the United Nations and of the arrangements so far made, with particular reference to the results of the 1955 Congress, and to the experience acquired to date. The present appears an opportune time for such a review inasmuch as the Social Commission, which has general responsibility in this field, is due to meet in 1957. Meanwhile, the proposed meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee should, in the Advisory Committee's opinion, be deferred.

5. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommends that provision should not be included in the 1957 appropriations in respect of a session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 29.