

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

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INDEX UNIT

MASTER

24 OCT 1950

RESTRICTED

A/CN.1/R.51
23 October 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN SECTIONS: 1950

(Note by the Secretary-General)

1. In accordance with paragraph 4 (iv) of the appropriation resolution (Resolution 356 (IV)), concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is requested for the transfer of funds between sections as follows:

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Section 20	\$ 34,000	
Section 18	50,000	
Section 15		\$ 20,000
Section 2		64,000

2. The additional funds required in Section 20 relate to an ad hoc meeting on grain, negotiations for which have just been concluded by the Executive Secretary of ECE. This meeting is a step in the ECE programme for promotion of trade between the countries of eastern and western Europe. It is expected to open on 14 November 1950, to consist of 25 delegations, and to continue in session possibly until late December.

3. The complete cost of the grain meeting is estimated by the Geneva Office at \$34,600, to cover the following requirements in the five weeks' period: 6 interpreters, 4 precis writers, 11 translators (2 English, 5 French, 4 Russian) as well as extra temporary staff in the Secretariat, documents production, cleaning and messenger services.

The commodity conference on tin, for which the Advisory Committee has already agreed to make provision (AC/267) will be in session simultaneously with the grain meeting during November. Most of the temporary staff available

/in Geneva
A/CN.1/R.51

in Geneva is being recruited for the tin conference, and it will therefore be necessary to pay travel and per diem for a majority of the language and secretarial staff needed for the grain meeting.

The costs of the grain meeting are expected to average \$7,000 in each of the first three weeks of the meeting and \$6,800 in each of the remaining two weeks.

4. There is no possibility of absorbing these costs within the existing Geneva budget and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is therefore asked to concur in the transfer to Section 20 of the full amount of \$34,000 estimated by the Geneva Office as required.

5. The additional funds required in Section 18 are needed to procure in 1950 a sufficient quantity of paper for internal reproduction use for the first three months of 1951. In the last few months paper has become extremely difficult to obtain and prices have risen alarmingly to an average increase of 25%. This has forced the paper mills and wholesalers in the United States of America and Canada to revert to a quota system and to demand that the purchasers take immediate delivery of orders as soon as they can be filled. This means that the receipt of any orders placed by the United Nations in either the United States or Canada to cover the requirements of the first few months of 1951 must be accepted in 1950 and therefore paid for from 1950 funds. It was hoped that this crisis could be relieved to some extent by increasing procurement in the international paper market. However the situation there seems to be equally bad, for on the last set of bids sent to international firms all were returned with "no bid" replies.

It is essential that adequate provision be made to cover UN requirements for the first three months of 1951 and that provision must be made now. There is no possibility of absorbing the additional cost within the existing budget for this section. Therefore, the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions is sought in the transfer to this section of the full amount of \$50,000 required.

Should approval be granted to this transfer, it would seem possible that the funds requested under this heading in the 1951 budget estimates could be reduced; however, no such reduction is possible due to the price increase already mentioned.
