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Agenda item 26

PROGRAMMES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Administrative and Operational Services Costs of the
Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance

I.

Letter dated 28 January 1957 from the Chairman of the
Second Committee of the General Assembly to the Chairman
of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions

1. The Second Committee has asked me to enquire from you, as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, whether the Committee would be able to render the assistance envisaged in the Economic and Social Council resolution of 17 December 1956, a copy of which is attached hereto.
2. The Second Committee, before accepting the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, would like to have a word from you as Chairman of your Committee saying whether there will be any objection in this matter.
3. I shall appreciate a reply from you as soon as possible as the matter is now before the Second Committee.

Resolution adopted unanimously by the Economic and Social Council, at its 952nd meeting on 17 December 1956:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Recommends to the General Assembly to authorize the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to co-operate with and render such advice to the Technical Assistance Committee or any administrative review group established by it as may be requested by TAC in the review of the administrative and operational services' costs of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance."

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II.

Letter dated 28 January 1957 from the Chairman of the
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
to the Chairman of the Second Committee of the General Assembly

1. I have the honour to thank you for your letter of today's date and for the opportunity which you have afforded me of communicating to the Second Committee the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 17 December 1956.
2. I wish, first of all, to assure you that the Advisory Committee has for many years taken a close interest in the working of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, and is most willing at all times to render whatever assistance lies within its power towards the efficient and economical administration of that programme.
3. With this object in view, the Advisory Committee recently suggested (E/TAC/56, annex, paragraph 10) that "TAC might find it convenient to report to the Economic and Social Council suggesting that the Council recommend to the General Assembly a procedure whereunder the Advisory Committee would be requested annually to examine and report (to the General Assembly) on:
 - (i) The proposed budget for TAB and its field offices (i.e. central administrative costs of EPTA) for the following year; and
 - (ii) The administrative and operational services costs of participating organizations as a whole."
4. The above-mentioned resolution of the Economic and Social Council represents a useful step in the suggested direction. At the same time, however, it does not, and indeed is not intended to, specify the precise terms of reference within which the Advisory Committee might assist the General Assembly in this matter.
5. In recent years the General Assembly, acting on recommendations of the Fifth Committee, has authorized the Advisory Committee to undertake certain studies and inquiries concerning the administrative procedures of the Expanded Programme. Thus, for the year 1957 the Committee has been requested, in addition to its normal work programme, to continue its series of studies, and will accordingly review the procedures in question in so far as WHO, FAO and WMO are concerned.

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6. I presume that in order that the Advisory Committee's responsibilities under the existing authorization may be properly co-ordinated with any new mandate, the Second Committee will wish to refer to the Fifth Committee any resolution which your Committee may propose for adoption by the General Assembly. Such a procedure would ensure that the Advisory Committee would receive from the General Assembly specific instructions regarding the form and nature of the assistance which the Assembly might desire the Committee to render.
