

## FIFTH COMMITTEE

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE  
FINANCIAL YEAR 1948 - PARTS I, II AND VII

(Report by the Secretary-General)

1. In order to expedite the work of the Fifth Committee, the Secretary-General wishes to present for early action those parts of the Budget which will not be affected by further supplementary increases or decreases due to the Management Survey.
2. The Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 1948, as presented by the Administration, included the following provisions for Parts I, II and VII:  
Part I - Sessions of the General Assembly, the Councils,  
Commissions and Committees .....\$2 917 515  
Part II - Special Conferences, Investigations and  
Inquiries.....\$ 132 975  
Part VII - International Court of Justice.\$ 691 011
3. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report on these parts of the Budget Estimates (A/336, paragraphs 116-136) recommended the following reductions:

	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Revised Total</u>
Part I	\$ 515 015	\$2 402 500
Part II	31 975	101 000
Part VII	no change	

4. The Secretary-General is prepared to accept the modifications suggested. However, there are certain points in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee relating to those items to which the Secretary-General wishes to call the attention of the members.
5. The greater part of the savings results from a reduction in printing costs which was obtained after the budget estimates were prepared. It is hoped that the decline of 15-17% in contract printing prices, which made this decrease possible, will continue throughout 1948 but it must be pointed out that both the number of pages and the contract price is largely outside the control of the Secretary-General.

/6. The reduction

6. The reduction in estimates for hospitality from \$11 040 to \$7 500 in Part I and from \$3 500 to \$3 000 in Part II, affects delegations only and is entirely a question for the General Assembly.

7. While the reduction recommended was general rather than specific with respect to staff costs for the General Assembly, the total will make it necessary to reduce both the numbers of temporary assistants provided for the General Assembly and the overtime provisions. Again it must be pointed out that the amount of overtime is a direct reflection of decisions of representatives to the General Assembly, the Councils and Commissions to meet on Saturdays and Sundays or after normal hours. Such administrative correctives as may reduce the amount of overtime, such as staggering of working hours, strict accountability of supervisors, etc., have already been taken in 1947.

8. A question has been raised by the Advisory Committee regarding the assumption of the Secretary-General that sub-commissions of the commissions of the Economic and Social Council are composed of experts and are therefore entitled to per diem. The Secretary-General believes his original assumption is amply borne out by the fact that every sub-commission thus far appointed has been of expert character and few, if any, additional sub-commissions are contemplated. Secondly, in view of the logic of taking political decisions in the main commissions and the Council, the nature of the work of a sub-commission on statistical sampling, a sub-commission on economic stability, a sub-commission on discrimination and protection of minorities, pre-supposes a technical working party to give expert advice to the main commission. The Secretary-General believes therefore that it is unsound to estimate expenses on any other basis.

In connection with the comments of the Advisory Committee on the character of missions making annual visits to trust territories, the attention of the General Assembly is called to the Rules of Procedure of the Trusteeship Council (Rules 94-98) which establish the expert character of these missions. The Secretary-General believes a contrary decision is not within his competence.

9. With these reservations, the Secretary-General believes that his responsibilities for administering these parts of the proposed Budget within the totals recommended by the Advisory Committee can be carried out.