

United Nations

Nations Unies

UNRESTRICTED

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLEE
GENERALE

A/670
6 October 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Dual distribution

Third session

REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Payment of travelling and subsistence expenses to representatives
to the General Assembly and members of commissions and
other bodies

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. O. P. MACHADO (Brazil)

1. In connexion with its discussions during the last session concerning the payment of travelling expenses and subsistence allowances of members of special missions of the General Assembly in 1947 (resolution 164 (II)), the Fifth Committee referred the question of the principles to be followed in payment of travelling expenses and subsistence allowances and the question of retroactivity of any principles adopted, to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for consideration and report to the third regular session.

2. In accordance with instructions given by the General Assembly on 24 September 1948, the Fifth Committee, at its 116th and 117th meetings, considered chapter VI of the first report of 1948 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (document A/534) relating to the "Payment of travelling and subsistence expenses to representatives to the General Assembly and members of commissions and other bodies".

3. In general, the Fifth Committee approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in paragraphs 59-62 and Appendix A of document A/534, with the exception of its conclusions with respect to payments of expenses of commissions of inquiry or conciliation. On this point, draft resolutions were submitted by the delegations of Belgium and Brazil and by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee proposing that one or more representatives of Members of commissions of inquiry or conciliation should be paid travelling and subsistence expenses from the United Nations budget. After discussion and amendment of these proposals, the Committee decided, by thirty-one votes to four with ten abstentions, to recommend to

dd

/the General

the General Assembly the adoption of a resolution embodying this principle.

4. On the question of the administration of rules regarding the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances, the Philippine delegation introduced a proposal which would ensure a more effective control of expenditure of missions away from headquarters. The Committee approved this proposal by twenty-seven votes to none with eleven abstentions, on the understanding that the Secretary-General, in implementing the Philippine resolution, will adopt a reasonably flexible interpretation taking due account of the special circumstances in each case.

5. The Fifth Committee, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions:

PAYMENT OF TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES TO
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND
MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS AND OTHER BODIES

I

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. CONFIRMS the policy followed by the Secretary-General as regards the payment of travelling expenses and of subsistence allowances at the meeting place of a commission or committee. It confirms also the practice of paying such expenses to:

- (a) A Rapporteur or Chairman of a committee or sub-commission who is called upon to present in an expert capacity the report of a committee or sub-commission to a parent body; and
- (b) One member of a commission acting as its representative on a second commission or committee of the United Nations;

2. DECIDES that travelling and subsistence expenses shall be payable out of United Nations funds to one representative of any Member participating in a commission of inquiry or conciliation instituted by the General Assembly or by the Security Council, subject to the proviso that an exception to this rule may be permitted on the decision of the organ concerned that an alternate for each Member is necessary;

3. AUTHORIZES the Secretary-General to reimburse retroactively on the basis of paragraph 2 above, travelling and subsistence expenses incurred by Members participating in existing commissions of inquiry or conciliation instituted by the General Assembly or the Security Council;

4. REAFFIRMS that travelling expenses but not subsistence

allowances shall be paid out of United Nations funds in respect of one representative of each Member participating in Commissions or Sub-Commissions of the Economic and Social Council as set forth in General Assembly resolution 70 (I);

5. DECIDES that neither travelling nor subsistence expenses shall be paid out of United Nations funds in respect of representatives to:

- (a) Organs or subsidiary organs in continuous or virtually continuous session;
- (b) Organs or subsidiary organs, the Members of which have a particular local interest in the region served;

6. CONCURS in the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as regards the administration of rules relating to the payment of such travelling and subsistence expenses*

NOTE: The application of the foregoing principles to existing bodies of the United Nations is shown in Appendix A.

II

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DESIRING to improve the administrative control of expenditure incurred by missions away from headquarters,

DIRECTS that decisions relating to the itinerary and duration of journeys of missions meeting away from headquarters shall require the consent of the Secretary-General.

APPENDIX A

The following schedule shows how the foregoing decisions would be applied to the principal and subsidiary organs of the United Nations.

1. Bodies for which travelling and subsistence expenses would be paid:
 - (a) Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; Committee on Contributions, Board of Auditors,
 - (b) Sub-Commissions of the Economic and Social Council on which the members serve in a personal capacity;
 - (c) Visiting missions of the Trusteeship Council;
 - (d) Advisory committees of an expert character established by the Secretary-General, e.g., Staff Benefit Committee, International Civil Service Advisory Board, Committee of Library Experts, etc.;

* Document A/534, paragraph 62.

(e) Commissions of inquiry or conciliation instituted by the General Assembly or the Security Council, e.g., Palestine Commission, Special Committee on the Balkans, Temporary Commission on Korea, etc.

2. Bodies for which travelling expenses would be paid:

(a) General Assembly: five representatives of each Member

(b) Commissions of the Economic and Social Council to which representatives are nominated by Governments in consultation with the Secretary-General and subsequently confirmed by the Council.

3. Bodies for which no travelling expenses or subsistence allowances would be paid:

(a) Security Council

(b) Economic and Social Council;

(c) Trusteeship Council;

(d) Atomic Energy Commission;

(e) Commission for Conventional Armaments;

(f) Interim Committee of the General Assembly;

(g) Special conferences to which Governments are invited to send representatives;

(h) Regional Economic Commissions.