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THIRTEENTH REPORT OF 1948 OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1949

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1949 submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/257.
2. The estimates are set out below, together with the corresponding recommendations of the Advisory Committee:

/Secretary-General's

Secretary- General's <u>estimates</u>	Advisory Committee's <u>recommendations</u>
Dollars (US)	Dollars (US)

1. Financial implications of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its seventh session (excluding social items not yet considered by the Third Committee).	464 130*	250 640*
2. Additional expenses in connexion with the Staff Assessment Plan, as approved by the Fifth Committee (\$3,777,374) and with increased cost of living allowances paid to headquarters staff (\$489,255).	4 286 000	4 286 000
3. Expert assistance in connexion with the proposed comprehensive review of the salaries and allowances system as recommended by the Advisory Committee.	21 420	21 420
4. Verbatim records of the Trusteeship Council	64 000	60 000
5. Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements.	82 990	15 000
6. Sessions of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements	6 090	3 000
7. Additional expenses to be incurred for the Economic Commission for Europe in order to implement decisions of the Timber Committee (\$2,650) and the Committee on Agricultural Problems (\$12,830)	15 480	-
8. Addition of further simultaneous interpretation facilities in Geneva.	59 000	-
9. Establishment of a cost-of-living allowance in Geneva	114 000	114 000
Total supplementary requirements	5 113 110	4 750 060

* A breakdown of these figures is contained in the annex to this document.

	<u>Secretary- General's estimates</u>	<u>Advisory Committee's recommendations</u>
	Dollars (US)	Dollars (US)
brought forward	5 113 110	4 750 060
Increase in the provision for miscellaneous income as a result of the Staff Assessment Plan.	3 797 000	3 797 000
	<u>1 316 110</u>	<u>953 060</u>

3. It will be noted that the net total of supplementary estimates submitted in document A/C.5/257, \$1,316,110, includes an amount of \$603,000 in respect of the revision or establishment of cost-of-living allowances for staff members at headquarters and the Geneva Office in which the Committee has previously concurred (A/730). Consequently, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee relate to supplementary estimates totalling approximately \$700,000, in respect of the other items enumerated in page 2 of document A/C.5/257.

Item 1. Economic Commission for Europe: Trade and development

4. While the Advisory Committee has given due weight to the importance of the work to be performed by the Standing Committee on the Development of Trade, it is not satisfied of the necessity for the full number of posts requested under the proposed reorganization of the Research and Planning Division, in view of the total resources already available to the Secretariat for the work of the Economic Commission for Europe. Accordingly, it recommends that the estimate should be reduced to \$25,000, and that, if required, additional funds should be provided out of savings on other Divisions of the Secretariat of the Commission.

Item 2. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East: (a) Industrial development; (b) Technical training and expert assistance; (c) Section on agriculture

5. The Advisory Committee, after careful consideration, is of opinion that the work contemplated under item (a) should be absorbed by the present staff of the Secretariat with the addition of \$22,300; that the services proposed in item (b) should be provided under the broader programme already approved by the Fifth Committee; and that the agricultural specialists required under item (c) should be obtained from the Food and Agriculture Organization.

/Item 3.

Item 3. Bureau of flood control

6. The estimate submitted by the Secretary-General amounted to \$115,800. The Advisory Committee, however, is of opinion that a smaller amount should prove adequate for the inauguration in 1949 of the tasks proposed in the relevant resolution of the Economic and Social Council (144 (VII) D). It therefore recommends that the estimate should be reduced to \$50,000.

Item 4. Economic Survey of Latin America

7. While the Advisory Committee refrains from proposing a reduction in the estimate of \$14,000, it recommends that every effort should be made to limit the size of the report with resultant economy. The estimate of 400 pages is, in its opinion, excessive.

Item 8. Import and export prices

8. The Advisory Committee recommends that the amount to be provided for the consultant's fee should be reduced by \$1,000 in order to bring it into line with normal remuneration in the Secretariat, and that the total estimate should be approved at a figure of \$5,900.

Item 10. Conference on World Road and Motor Transport; Item 11. Meeting of transport experts

9. While the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the estimate for item 10 at the figure submitted (\$9,500), it is not satisfied, as regards item 11, of the necessity for three staff members to be assigned from headquarters for the servicing of the meeting of transport experts in the Far East. Accordingly, it proposes the elimination of the estimate of \$6,000, and suggests making full use of the experts on the staff of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and using the experts attending the meeting contemplated under item 10.

Item 12. Economic and statistical requirements in the transport field;Item 13. Classification of commodities for external trade statistics;Item 14. Statistics of national income and capital formation;Item 15. Indices of industrial production; Item 16. Study of price index numbers and their inter-relationship; Item 17. Technical assistance for 1950 censuses.

10. The Secretary-General has submitted separate estimates covering each of the above items, to an aggregate amount of \$76,175.

While the Advisory Committee appreciates that resolutions

147 (VII) and 149 (VII) of the Economic and Social Council have extended the scope of the work to be performed by the Statistical Office in the Department of Economic Affairs, it takes the view on the evidence presented, that the additional work-load does not justify the additional

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provision proposed. Attention is also drawn to the fact that it is proposed to engage consultants for each of the above items. In its second report of 1948 (A/598, paragraph 38) the Committee suggested that "the services of consultants should not be sought until the Secretariat is satisfied that expert advice in the particular field cannot be provided from within or by one of the specialized agencies." Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends a global amount of \$40,000 for the six items (numbers 12 to 17).

Item 19 (a) Holding of the ninth session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva

11. In recommending a reduction of \$21,375 the Advisory Committee has had regard, not only to the financial aspect, but also to considerations of good administration. It is of opinion that the number of substantive officials and interpreters proposed to be assigned from headquarters for the servicing of the Economic and Social Council and its Committees is unduly high, in view of the fact that the Geneva Office in 1949 will comprise no less than 470 posts (excluding those provided for the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe). In this connexion, the Committee suggests that the International Labour Organization and other specialized agencies with headquarters or branch offices in Geneva should be approached with a view to the loan of officials for the duration of the Council's session, in accordance with a long-standing practice in the international field to which the ILO in particular has frequently lent its support in the past.

12. Furthermore, the Committee has noted a tendency on the part of the Secretariat to assume that the mere inclusion of an item in the Council's agenda necessitates the attendance of many individual staff members who have been directly associated with the question for discussion. In practice, however, one senior officer, if properly briefed, should be in a position to deal with all matters falling within the competence of his Division.

13. The largest single item in this estimate (\$37,500) relates to travel of staff, and the action recommended by the Advisory Committee should permit the curbing of expenditure under this heading.

Item 5. World economic rehabilitation; Item 6. Free ports and zones; Item 7. Inflation; Item 18. Completion of the United Nations Appeal for Children

14. The estimates for the above four items total \$15,900, and since the Secretary-General has assured the Committee that every effort will be made to undertake the project with present headquarters staff or to meet added expenditures out of savings on the 1949 budget, no amount is recommended.

Annex A-4. Verbatim records for the Trusteeship Council

15. The Advisory Committee would expect that some savings will prove possible on the estimates submitted in document A/C.5/230/Add.1. Accordingly, it recommends a reduction of the amount by \$4,000.

Annex A-5. Registration and publication of treaties and international Agreements

16. The Advisory Committee was informed that in addition to the 300 treaties and international agreements which, according to the estimate presented to the Fifth Committee, would normally be deposited with the United Nations during the year 1949, there would be the following work-load for translation and printing:

	<u>Treaties and international agreements</u>
Arrears from 1948	100
Deposited by the International Labour Organization	80
Deposited by the International Civil Aviation Organization	240

17. As regards the last two items, the Committee is of opinion that efforts should be made, where possible, to obtain from the specialized agencies English and/or French texts of all treaties or international agreements deposited by them, and that, to this end, the agencies concerned might, for their part, consider requesting Members to furnish a text in at least one of the two working languages.

18. The ILO treaties are already in the two working languages so that the only additional expenditure involved is for printing, for which the Committee recommends an amount of \$15,000. The Committee has not been able to determine from the evidence adduced whether the 240 treaties deposited by ICAO are model texts (which would involve a minimum of translation), or whether a separate translation of each treaty is called for.

19. The difficulty of engaging translators with the necessary qualifications was brought to the attention of the Committee as the principal explanation of the delays in publication of treaties. As at present advised, the Committee does not see sufficient justification for recommending the provision of funds at this time for additional posts in the Departments of Legal Affairs and Conference and General Services.

Annex A-6. Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements

20. The Advisory Committee suggests that, for reasons of economy, consideration should be given to the holding of only one meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee during 1949. It therefore recommends a reduction of the estimate
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to \$3,000.

Annex A-7. Economic Commission for Europe: expenses relating to decisions of the Timber Committee and the Committee on Agricultural Problems

21. The Advisory Committee recommends that, pending action by the Economic and Social Council, the estimates for the two items should be eliminated, in view of the fact that the Secretary-General would be prepared, if necessary, to authorize the proposed expenditures as commitments against the Working Capital Fund under paragraph (e) of the draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, 1949.

Annex A-8. Simultaneous interpretation facilities in Geneva

22. While the Advisory Committee is reluctant to curb the improvement of facilities for the servicing of Geneva meetings, it does not feel that the heavy expenditure involved in the installation of an electrical wired system can be justified at the present time of financial stringency.

Accordingly, it recommends elimination of the item of \$59,000.

/ANNEX

ANNEX

Financial implications of decisions taken by the Economic and
Social Council at its seventh session

<u>Item*</u>	<u>Secretary-General's recommendation</u>	<u>Advisory Committee's recommendation</u>
	Dollars (US)	Dollars (US)
<u>Report of the Economic Commission for Europe:</u>		
1. Trade and development	37 490	25 000
<u>Report of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, third session:</u>		
2. (a) Industrial development	33 500	22 300
(b) Technical training and expert assistance	21 500	-
(c) Section on agriculture	32 000	10 000
3. Bureau of Flood Control	115 850	50 000
<u>Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (first session):</u>		
4. Economic survey of Latin America	14 000	14 000
5. World economic rehabilitation	7 000	-
6. Free ports and zones	1 500	-
7. Inflation	1 200	-
8. Import and export prices	6 900	5 900
<u>Report of the Transport and Communications Commission (second session):</u>		
10. Conference on World Road and Motor Transport	9 500	9 500
11. Meeting of transport experts	6 000	-
12. Economic and statistical requirements in the transport field	4 050	*
<u>Report of the Statistical Commission (third session):</u>		
13. Classification of commodities for external trade statistics	25 100	*
14. Statistics of national income and capital formation	8 100	*
15. Indices of industrial production	10 800	*
16. Study of price index numbers and their inter-relationship	6 750	*
17. Technical assistance for 1950 censuses	21 375	40 000
Carried Forward	362 615	176 700

* The numbering of the items corresponds with that given in pages 4 - 34
of document A/C.5/257.

	<u>Secretary-General's recommendation</u>	<u>Advisory Committee's recommendation</u>
	Dollars (US)	Dollars (US)
Brought forward	362 615	176 700
18. Completion of the United Nations Appeal for Children	6 200	-
19. (a) Holding of the ninth session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva	<u>111 375</u>	<u>90 000</u>
<u>Total financial implications of decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its seventh session, excluding social items</u>	480 190	266 700
<u>Less savings on two sessions of Commissions in Geneva instead of four sessions (A/C.5/257, page 17)</u>	<u>16 060</u>	<u>16 060</u>
Net total	<u>464 130</u>	<u>250 640</u>
