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FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1959: VOLUNTARY FUNDS ADMINISTERED
BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the financial report and accounts of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the year ended 31 December 1959 and the related report of the Board of Auditors.^{1/}
2. The consolidated summary operating statement covering all voluntary, restricted and trust funds (Exhibit A of the financial report and accounts) shows the following picture for 1959:

	\$	\$
Surplus at 31 December 1958 plus adjustments ...	1,815,796	
Contributions and other income	<u>7,281,071</u>	9,096,867
Less:		
Obligations liquidated by disbursement	3,204,354	
Unliquidated obligations	2,344,788	
Reserves	<u>1,129,999</u>	<u>6,679,141</u>
		<u>2,417,726</u>

3. In its report the Board of Auditors has again stressed the need to improve the pace of financial reporting in respect of the projects for which funds are provided by the High Commissioner. At 31 December 1959, excluding projects financed from restricted funds, 388 projects amounting to some \$12.8 million, out

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 6 C (A/4369).

of a total of 834 projects amounting to some \$27.3 million, had been reported on for purposes of audit. Of the remaining 446 projects (\$14.5 million), final financial reporting was stated to be overdue on 278 projects totalling some \$10 million. While this is indicative of some improvement in the situation, continuing efforts should be made to obtain earlier financial reporting on projects.

4. The Board of Auditors has also referred to the impact of the steadily increasing activities of the Office of the High Commissioner on the accounts, and has suggested that efforts should be made to simplify the accounts as much as possible. The Advisory Committee recognizes that the High Commissioner administers a variety of funds on which he has to report to a number of different sources. The Committee would hope, nevertheless, that in the interests of the smooth operation of a relatively complex programme, careful attention will be given to the possibilities for a simplification of accounts and financial procedures. The recent strengthening of the administrative and financial services of the Office of the High Commissioner would facilitate this process in which assistance might also be provided, as appropriate, by the Office of the Controller.
