

Dual Distribution

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Agenda item 24(a)

PALESTINE

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION
COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

Financial implications of draft resolution I of the
Ad Hoc Political Committee (A/2070)

Thirteenth report of 1952 of the Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/489) on the financial implications of draft resolution I proposed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee in document A/2070.
2. Expenditure for 1952, as estimated by the Secretary-General, is divided into two parts, the first part covering the cost of servicing meetings of the Conciliation Commission for Palestine, the second part covering the cost of continuing during 1952 the Truce Supervision Organization.
3. As regards the first part, the Secretary-General reports (A/C.5/489, paragraph 3) that, on the assumption that the seat of the Commission during 1952 would be at Headquarters, (New York), the cost of holding meetings and servicing the Commission could, in his opinion, be met within the existing budgetary provision for the departments concerned. Should this assumption prove to be incorrect, the Secretary-General proposes that additional expenses should be financed out of the Working Capital Fund, under the provision relating to the maintenance of peace and security.
4. The Advisory Committee has, however, taken note of the fact that the Ad Hoc Political Committee, at its 41st meeting, successively rejected the following two proposals:

(a) That the headquarters of the Commission should remain in Jerusalem

(b) That the headquarters of the Commission should be transferred to the Headquarters of the United Nations (A/AC.53/L.22/Rev.1).

5. In these circumstances, and having regard to the fact that the Ad Hoc Political Committee makes no recommendation as to the seat of the Conciliation Commission for Palestine, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that its statement of the financial implications of the proposed resolution should contain estimates based on possible alternative decisions.

6. Figures submitted to the Advisory Committee on an approximate basis by the Secretary-General, for a Conciliation Commission composed of seven members, are as follows:

Headquarters:

(a) At New York Nil

(b) At Jerusalem \$ 265,000

7. The Advisory Committee points out that, if the headquarters of the Commission were to be established at Geneva, the figure of estimated cost might be reduced to approximately \$200,000.

8. The above figures of contingent expenditure during 1952 at Jerusalem are based roughly on the 1951 scale of expenditure, which covered certain extraordinary conference items involving travel outside the area of the Commission. Such expenses will, it is assumed, not recur in 1952, and the provision of \$250,000 for the Commission, if located in Jerusalem, should, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, constitute a fair estimate of the probable cost of the Commission during 1952.

9. In the second part of his report (A/C.5/489, paragraphs 4 - 11), the Secretary-General estimates the 1952 expenditure for the Truce Supervision Organization at \$462,000, including \$5,000 in respect of the printing of reports for submission to the Security Council.

10. The item of \$87,700 for temporary assistance includes provision not only for the customary replacement at Headquarters of General Services personnel assigned to the mission, but for the replacement of 50 per cent of the professional staff similarly detailed from Headquarters. The Advisory Committee doubts whether the temporary replacement of staff members in the senior categories of the Secretariat is normally either feasible or desirable, and it recommends that the present proposal be carefully reviewed, with a view to securing savings in the estimate. Other items of estimated expenditure, which include a large provision for the operation, /maintenance

maintenance and replacement of transport equipment, are based on the 1951 expenditure figures.

11. The Advisory Committee considers that provision to an amount of \$450,000 (\$445,000 under section 5; \$5,000 under section 25) should prove sufficient during 1952 for the Truce Supervision Organization.

12. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee reports that the financial implications of draft resolution I proposed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee (A/2070) are estimated as follows:

With the seat of the Conciliation Commission (if composed of seven members)

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| (a) At New York | - | a total of \$ 450,000 |
| (b) At Jerusalem | - | a total of \$ 700,000 |
| (c) At Geneva | - | a total of \$ 650,000 |
