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REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mauro MENDEZ (Philippines)

1. The Fifth Committee, at its 487th and 488th meetings held on 5 and 10 October respectively, considered the report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth session (A/2945).
 2. The Acting Chairman of the Negotiating Committee introduced the report and reviewed the results of the work which the Negotiating Committee had carried out during 1955. He drew attention to the annex to the report which set out, as of 10 August 1955, the status of pledges and payments to the programmes with which the Negotiating Committee had been concerned, and stated that since the publication of the Committee's report, the amount of pledged contributions had not appreciably varied, except in the case of the United Nations Children's Fund, for which contributions pledged amounted to \$15,432,457. With particular reference to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, he drew attention to the fact that contributions from Member States had shown a steady increase from year to year, and the Negotiating Committee trusted that this trend would continue. As regards the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, he noted that the budgets which would be reviewed by the General Assembly at its current session would indicate that even after the collection of contributions already pledged but not remitted, which amounted to a total of \$42,500,000, it would still be necessary for Governments to pledge other contributions amounting to a total of about \$90,300,000 if the approved
- 55-26922

programmes of relief and rehabilitation were to be carried out in their entirety. With respect to the United Nations Refugee Fund, he explained to the Fifth Committee that the Advisory Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had decided, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly, that the 1955 target for Government contributions should be \$4,200,000; at the present time, however, firm pledges towards the 1955 programme represented only about half that amount, and the Negotiating Committee would be faced with the task of securing not only the remaining contributions necessary for 1955, but also pledges towards the programme for 1956.

3. The Acting Chairman of the Negotiating Committee outlined the plans which had been agreed for the sixth United Nations Technical Assistance Conference in October 1955, and for a meeting with representatives of Member and non-member States in November 1955, to discuss the financial situation of UNRWA and UNREF. The Negotiating Committee anticipated that it would have the full co-operation of delegations at these meetings. In order to ease the task of those who were administering the programmes, the Negotiating Committee, in paragraph 13 of its report, had expressed the hope that Governments might determine the amount of their contributions before or at the beginning of the financial year of the agencies concerned.

4. In the discussion in the Fifth Committee, tribute was paid to the Negotiating Committee on its work in securing financial resources for the programmes and activities of the United Nations supported by voluntary contributions, and to which so many Governments attached worth and importance. Noting that under its terms of reference the Negotiating Committee was constituted annually, and that its present mandate would expire at the end of the tenth session of the General Assembly, there was general agreement that the President of the General Assembly should be requested to appoint a Committee to continue working until the end of the eleventh session of the Assembly.

5. Particular attention was given in the Fifth Committee to the comments contained in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of the Negotiating Committee. It was noted that the General Assembly, by resolution 861 A (IX) of 29 October 1954, had asked the Negotiating Committee "to review, in the light of experience, its terms of reference with a view to determining if any changes would be desirable, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its tenth session". The

General Assembly had also called attention, in resolution 861 B (IX), to the concern which had been expressed by the Negotiating Committee in its report to the ninth session of the Assembly,^{1/} at the effect of the establishment, for activities and programmes supported by voluntary contributions, of financial targets unlikely to be realized in actual receipt of contributions, and had, in consequence, requested the organs of the United Nations concerned with the approval of such activities and programmes "to satisfy themselves that the budgetary levels of those programmes are established at amounts consistent with the probabilities of collection of contributions for such activities and programmes". In view of its experience in seeking contributions to UNRWA, UNKRA and UNREF, the Negotiating Committee had felt obliged in its report to the tenth session (paragraph 12) to reiterate its concern in the matter since, in its opinion, the prestige of the United Nations would be bound to suffer if the setting of unrealistic targets and the subsequent inevitable failure to reach them were to become an annual process. The Negotiating Committee had stated that strict observance of the General Assembly's resolution in this respect was more urgently required than any modification of the Committee's terms of reference. Several representatives, in referring to this particular paragraph, expressed the concurrence of their delegations in that observation.

6. The representative of the United States of America called attention to the fact that the Committee's report had omitted an explanatory note concerning the United States pledge to UNKRA, which was listed at \$162,500,000. While it was true that the United States had made an initial pledge of that amount, there had been attached to the pledge a condition that the United States contribution should not represent more than 65 per cent of the total contributions to the programme. To date, the United States had contributed \$92,902,615 to UNKRA - or 67 per cent of the total governmental contributions to this programme since its inception. Accordingly, unless further substantial pledges or contributions were made by other Governments, the United States was not in a position to make further contributions.

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 42, document A/2730, paras. 7 to 10.

7. At its 487th meeting, the Committee invited the Rapporteur to present at a subsequent meeting, a draft text taking into account the views which had been expressed during the discussion, and which might form the basis of its recommendations to the General Assembly.

8. The draft text thus prepared (A/C.5/L.333), was considered by the Fifth Committee at its 488th meeting. It included, inter alia, a request to Governments to give consideration to their intended voluntary contributions in support of particular programmes, before or early in the financial year of each of the agencies concerned, to enable agencies to establish their respective programmes for the year with the best possible indication of the financial resources which would be available, the point to which the Negotiating Committee had drawn attention in paragraph 13 of its report and to which several delegations had referred in the course of the discussion on this item. While not dissenting from the opinion that it was desirable for Governments to state at the earliest possible time their intentions as regards pledges, certain representatives expressed doubt that their delegations could support a provision of this nature in the General Assembly resolution itself, since the financial procedures of many Member States were not such as to permit them to conform with so specific a request by the General Assembly. As it was generally recognized that the earliest possible notification of intended contributions was desirable, it was felt that a specific mention of the point in the draft resolution could be omitted. To avoid any contradiction in the phrasing of its final recommendation to the General Assembly, the Committee also agreed to replace the words "to the extent necessary" which were included in section II of the draft text, by the words "to the fullest extent".

9. The acceptance by Members of the above noted changes enabled the Committee to reach unanimous agreement on its recommendation to the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends the adoption of the following draft resolution:

REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS

I

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report (A/2945) of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds appointed at the ninth session of the General Assembly,

Believing that provision should be made for the continuation of the work of the Committee,

1. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint a Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds consisting of not more than ten members to serve from the close of the tenth session to the close of the eleventh session of the General Assembly for the purpose of consulting with Member and non-Member States as to the amounts which Governments may contribute on a voluntary basis toward each of the programmes approved by the General Assembly for which funds are not available through the regular budget of the United Nations, and for which the Negotiating Committee is specifically requested by the General Assembly to obtain pledges of voluntary contributions from Governments;
2. Reaffirms the terms of reference of the Committee as laid down in resolution 693 (VII) of 25 October 1952;
3. Decides that the Secretary-General shall, if the Committee so requests, arrange an appropriate meeting or meetings of Member and non-member States at which the pledges of Members and non-members may be made known;
4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly the item "Report of the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds".

II

The General Assembly,

Having noted the concern again expressed by the Negotiating Committee, in the light of its experience during the past year, at the effect of the establishment of financial targets unlikely to be realized in actual receipts of contributions,

1. Requests the organs of the United Nations concerned with the approval of activities and programmes to be financed by voluntary contributions to take into account when establishing the budgetary levels of those programmes, the probabilities of collection of contributions for such activities and programmes;

2. Appeals to the Governments of Member and non-member States to make voluntary contributions to the fullest extent to carry out the programmes approved by the General Assembly to which reference is made in operative paragraph 1 of resolution I above.
