



Sixteenth session  
Agenda item 12

## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

## HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES

Financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the  
Third Committee (A/5032, draft resolution VI)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Antonio ARRATZ (Venezuela)

1. In accordance with rule 15<sup>4</sup> of the rules of procedure, the Fifth Committee considered, at its 901st meeting, held on 13 December 1961, the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Third Committee (A/5032, draft resolution VI) calling for an addition to the resources of the programme for advisory services in the field of human rights, in order "to permit the provision of a number of human rights fellowships each year, in addition to the seminars". Supporting documents were a statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/905) and a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/5027).

2. The documents under reference indicated:

(a) That the appropriation of \$100,000 already recommended by the Fifth Committee, in first reading of the 1962 estimates, for advisory services in the field of human rights provided for the award of one or two fellowships in addition to the holding of seminars;

(b) That an increase in the number of fellowships would entail an additional expenditure estimated at an average of \$4,500 per fellowship;

(c) That the Third Committee had not indicated the appropriate or probable number of fellowships to be awarded in 1962; and

(d) That, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, up to ten or twelve fellowships could be serviced without increase in the administrative expense of the programme.

3. The gist of the discussion in the Fifth Committee ran as follows. Was it procedurally correct for the Fifth Committee to study and decide upon the scope of a programme which, after extensive consideration, another Main Committee of the General Assembly had recommended for approval, even though the latter Committee's recommendation might be lacking in precision?

4. In previous years the programme of seminars had absorbed nine-tenths of the available funds. But, inasmuch as only two human rights fellowships had been awarded in the period 1956 to 1961, it seemed legitimate to ask whether it was not so much from a lack of funds as from a lack of demand that the fellowship programme suffered.

5. Several delegations, however, stressed the experimental character of a valuable programme which deserved to be better known and more actively supported by Member States. The programme differed in one important respect from parallel programmes under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, for the degree of a country's economic advancement was not a reliable index to its advancement in the sphere of human rights. It followed that the programme might prove of value to some countries which, from a purely economic standpoint, might not qualify for technical assistance.

6. It was suggested that, notwithstanding the procedural objections - which had their origin in the imprecision of the Third Committee's recommendation - it would be useful if the Fifth Committee could give some assistance to the General Assembly from a budgetary and administrative point of view. The United Kingdom representative accordingly proposed that the Committee's statement of financial implications should include the following sentence:

"In the absence of an indication in the draft resolution as to the appropriate number of fellowships, the Fifth Committee suggests, on administrative and budgetary grounds, that the General Assembly may wish to provide in the 1962 budget for the award of not more than ten such fellowships."

Decision of the Committee

7. The Committee voted separately on the two sentences of its proposed statement to the General Assembly. By 64 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the Committee approved the first sentence, the text of which appears in paragraph 8 below. It then approved, by 54 votes to none, with 11 abstentions, the second sentence (paras. 6 and 8).
8. The Fifth Committee therefore informs the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee (A/5032, draft resolution VI) would call for an additional appropriation, under section 15, of approximately \$4,500 per fellowship to be awarded in 1962, the number of such fellowships to be fixed at the discretion of the General Assembly. In the absence of an indication in the draft resolution as to the appropriate number of fellowships, the Fifth Committee suggests, on administrative and budgetary grounds, that the General Assembly may wish to provide in the 1962 budget for the award of not more than ten such fellowships.
9. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that, in the event of the adoption of the draft resolution, the addition to the 1962 budget would be limited, in respect of not more than ten fellowships, to \$40,000.

-----