



Seventeenth session
Agenda item 32 (b)

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE: COST ESTIMATES FOR THE MAINTENANCE
OF THE FORCE DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1963

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the budget estimates submitted by the Secretary-General in respect of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 1963 (A/5187) on the assumption that the Force will be continued on its present basis during that period.
2. The estimates are in the total amount of \$19,256,870, consisting of \$10,331,870 under part A of the budget, for operating costs to be incurred directly by the United Nations, and \$8,925,000 under part B, for reimbursement of extra and extraordinary costs incurred by Governments in providing contingents for the Force.
3. Estimated operating costs under part A are \$579,930 less than the 1962 provision and \$319,732 less than 1961 expenditures. Part B, on the other hand, reflects no change and the estimates for 1963 are the same as the amount authorized for 1962, i.e., \$8,925,000.
4. In considering these estimates, the Advisory Committee has given due weight to their impact on the net cash deficit with which the United Nations continues to be faced. Thus, at 30 September 1962, the balance due on assessments totalled \$138 million in respect of those of the Organization's activities which are wholly or principally financed by means of assessments on Member States, and of this total, \$30.9 million was attributable to delays in payments, or to the unwillingness of some Governments to effect payment, in respect of contributions assessed for the UNEF Special Account.

5. Since the size of the military establishment provided for has a direct bearing on the level of requirements under almost every section of the UNEF budget, the Advisory Committee deemed it appropriate to comment on this point in paragraph 5 of its report on this question at the sixteenth session.^{1/} The Committee was then assured that, in the opinion of the Commander of the Force, the effective discharge of functions and responsibilities, as defined by the General Assembly in resolution 1001 (ES-I) of 7 November 1956, called for a minimum average of 5,300 officers and other ranks, which corresponded to the number provided for in 1960 and 1961. It is, however, interesting to note that the reduction in the Swedish contingent effected last year owing to the dispatch of two companies (approximately 200 men) to the Congo has not been made up, and for this reason, the disposition of the various components of the Force has had to be more or less permanently adjusted (see report of the Secretary-General on the Force, A/5172, para. 3).

6. The following tabulation shows the costs under part A for operating costs since 1959:

	\$
1959 (actual)	11,565,643
1960 (")	11,495,945
1961 (")	10,651,602
1962 (estimate)	10,911,800
1963 (estimate)	10,331,870

7. The Committee anticipates that the reduction proposed in part A for 1963 would result in some decrease under part B relating to reimbursements of costs to Governments.

8. While section 1, military personnel, shows some decrease, section 6, non-military personnel, is rising. The Advisory Committee understands that this corresponds to the replacement of military personnel by local civilians in various tasks and results in some savings. It would, however, urge that every effort be made to reduce the over-all personnel expenditures under part A of the budget.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Annexes. Agenda item 26 (a), document A/4812.

9. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee would observe that, with the passing of years, temporary installations and arrangements have tended to become quasi-permanent, such as the substitution of masonry buildings for tents and the construction of permanent sanitary installations. The Committee is informed that the Force is becoming more and more associated with the local economy.

10. The financial rules of the UNEF Special Account provide that "except for such specific limitations as the General Assembly may impose for each financial period, transfers may be made between [UNEF] budget sections by the Controller, acting on behalf of the Secretary-General". In this respect, the Advisory Committee recommends that the practice followed in previous years should be continued. Under that practice, credits might be transferred under the UNEF Financial Rules between sections within part A "Operating costs incurred by the United Nations" or within part B "Reimbursement of extra and extraordinary costs incurred by Governments providing contingents", and from part A to part B. Transfers from part B to part A would be made only with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

11. On the basis of the considerations set out above, the Advisory Committee would recommend a reduction of \$256,870 in the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General, or an appropriation of \$19,000,000 for the United Nations Emergency Force for 1963. However, the Committee would hope that every effort will continue to be made to keep costs for the operation at the lowest possible level, and suggests that a figure of \$18.5 million would represent a reasonable target for this purpose.
