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APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

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

1. In its twenty-eighth report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session^{1/} on the terms and conditions governing the appointment of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee, after noting that no provision exists for benefits to a widow or any surviving children in the event of death in office or while in receipt of the retirement allowance, or for the contingency of death, injury or illness attributable to the performance of official duties, suggested that, pending further study and on a provisional basis, the following arrangements should apply as from 1 January 1963:

- (1) if the Secretary-General should die in office or during the period that he is in receipt of a retirement allowance, his widow should receive, until death or remarriage, a pension equal to one half of the retirement allowance; suitable benefits should also be provided in the event of surviving minor children or other dependents within the degrees of relationship recognized by the Staff Rules and Regulations;

^{1/} A/5321.

(11) The provisions of appendix D to the Staff Rules should be applicable mutatis mutandis in the event of death, injury or illness of the Secretary-General attributable to the performance of official duties on behalf of the United Nations.

2. At the same time the Committee observed that "the position is not very clear regarding the possibility of retirement before the end of the term of appointment".

3. The Fifth Committee, at its 959th meeting, decided to recommend that the General Assembly should endorse the above suggestions. It was also decided, without objection, to request the Advisory Committee to undertake the study referred to above and, if possible, to submit its recommendations before the close of the seventeenth session so that the General Assembly might be in a position to adopt a resolution on the subject.

4. It is relevant that the General Assembly, at its first session, noted and approved the following observation of the Preparatory Commission:

"Because a Secretary-General is a confidant of many governments, it is desirable that no Member should offer him, at any rate immediately on retirement, any governmental position in which his confidential information might be a source of embarrassment to other Members, and on his part a Secretary-General should refrain from accepting any such position".

5. In the light of all relevant considerations, the Advisory Committee believes that a reasonable arrangement - on a provisional basis - might be as follows: in the event of the Secretary-General retiring before completing the full term of his appointment, he would be provided with a retirement allowance equal to one half of the full allowance if he has served less than two years but more than one year; for longer period, the retirement allowance would increase by one eighth for each completed year of service beyond two years until reaching its full level on completion of five years of service.
