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UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE EMERGENCY FUND: FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE
PERIOD 1 MARCH 1952 TO 31 DECEMBER 1953 AND REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions to the ninth session of the
General Assembly

1. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund for the period 1 March 1952 to 31 December 1953^{1/}.
2. The financial report and accounts of the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund cover the period from inception of the Fund (1 March 1952) to 31 December 1953.
3. The statement of income and expenditure in respect of that period shows the following position:

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 13A, document A/2648/Add.1.

<u>Income</u>	<u>Dollars (US)</u>	<u>Dollars (US)</u>
Contributions in cash from:		
Governments	733,748	
International Refugee Organization	246,698	
Private and non-governmental sources	<u>61,937</u>	1,042,383
Miscellaneous cash receipts		<u>5,863</u>
	Total income	<u>1,048,246</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Administrative expenses (Geneva Office)	23,694	
Relief operations	<u>824,214</u>	
	Total expenditure	<u>847,908</u>
	Excess of income over expenditure	<u>200,338</u>

4. It is a function of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, under article III.1 of the financial rules for the Refugee Emergency Fund and other voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, to review the administrative part of the annual plan of expenditure prepared by the High Commissioner in respect of the Refugee Emergency Fund. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee reviewed during December 1952 a plan of expenditure submitted exceptionally for a period of twenty-two months (1 March 1952 to 31 December 1953). That submission was accompanied by a statement by the High Commissioner to the effect that, as it was too early to estimate probable total receipts, the expenditure plan could at that stage be little more than a statement of anticipated needs, and that, to the extent that contributions fell short of the \$3 million required under the plan, the High Commissioner would have to meet the most urgent priorities first, leaving, if necessary, other needs unsatisfied.

5. As shown in the above statement of income and expenditure, actual revenue fell short by almost \$2 million of the estimate prepared by the High Commissioner. In view of this exceptional situation, which precluded adherence to the expenditure plan as submitted, the Advisory Committee concurs in the observation of the Board of Auditors in paragraph 3 of its report that the action taken by the High Commissioner "seems appropriate in the circumstances."

6. At the same time, however, the Advisory Committee has examined the question whether as regards transfers within the expenditure plan, a rule of more limited scope should in future apply. The existing provisions (article IV.2 of the financial rules) empower the High Commissioner to make transfers within the plan of expenditure, subject to the proviso that all such transfers shall be reported to the Secretary-General and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

7. Two alternative courses have been considered: the one, that the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee should be required for any such transfer, the other, that the concurrence of the Secretary-General alone should be sought. The Committee believes that, on balance, the second alternative would for the time being constitute an adequate provision. It is accordingly recommended that article IV.2 of the financial rules of the Fund should be amended to provide that any transfer of funds within the plan of expenditure shall require the prior concurrence of the Secretary-General.

8. The audit report discloses no other point on which the Advisory Committee desires to offer comment.
