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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969

Revised estimates resulting from decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions

Fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1169) in which he submits his proposals for revisions to the initial budget estimates for 1969 as a consequence of decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, held in New York and Geneva from 6 May to 31 May 1968 and from 8 July to 2 August 1968, respectively. These revised statements do not take into account additional requirements, if any, resulting from decisions which may be taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.
2. The additional requirements for 1969, which are based on statements of financial implications submitted to the Economic and Social Council during its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, are estimated by the Secretary-General to amount to \$138,300. The total financial implications for 1969 arising from decisions of the Council at its aforementioned sessions totalled \$353,400. As explained in paragraph 4 of his report, the Secretary-General was able to take into account some of those decisions of the forty-fourth session of the Council in his initial budget estimates for 1969.^{1/} The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations on

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/7205).

those estimates are contained in its first report to the General Assembly at its current session.^{2/}

3. The additional requirement of \$138,300 estimated for 1969 covers the following activities:

	<u>Economic and Social Council resolution or decision</u>	\$ US
(a) Arrangements for the transfer of operative technology to developing countries	1311 (XLIV)	52,000
(b) Export credits and export promotion in developing countries	1358 (XLV)	23,100
(c) Fourth session of the Committee for Development Planning to be held in Bangkok	Decision taken at 1560th Plenary Meeting (XLV)	48,200
(d) Non-agricultural resources	1316 (XLIV)	10,500
(e) Activities of the United Nations system of organizations in the transport field	1372 (XLV)	<u>4,500</u>
	Total	<u><u>138,300</u></u>

^{2/} Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/7207).

4. Distribution of the amount of \$138,300 among budget sections and chapters would be as follows:

<u>Section</u>	\$ US	\$ US
1. Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies		4,800
3. Salaries and wages:		
(a) temporary assistance for meetings (Chapter II)	27,700	
(b) other temporary assistance (Chapter III)	<u>77,400</u>	105,100
5. Travel of staff:		
(a) travel of staff to meetings	10,900	
(b) travel of staff on other official business	<u>12,700</u>	23,600
10. General expenses		4,800
	Total	<u><u>138,300</u></u>

Observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee

5. The Advisory Committee, in examining the additions to the budget estimates for 1969, has been mindful of the fact that the revisions have been submitted in order to implement decisions of a principal organ of the United Nations in important fields of activity. The Committee has recognized that the Secretariat undertook a careful review of the budgetary requirements for carrying out the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions and has made certain adjustments resulting in reduced expenditure estimates to the present level of \$138,300.

6. The Advisory Committee has had to consider, however, the relationship of the proposed expenditures to the general administrative and budgetary principles adopted by the General Assembly, particularly the principles of financial discipline as applied to the use of available resources, and other observations and recommendations made by the Committee, more specifically those recorded in paragraphs 34 to 38 of its main report on the budget estimates for 1969.^{3/} On the

3/ Ibid.

basis of these considerations, the Committee has decided to recommend to the Assembly that the estimates submitted should be reduced to a total of \$108,300.

7. The considerations which led the Advisory Committee to propose a reduction of \$30,000 in the revised estimates relate in part to the fact that some projects appear to overlap with others already being undertaken, and the necessary work might well be carried out by making better use of existing resources without the provision of extra funds. In this connexion the Committee, as pointed out in paragraph 49 of its main report on the budget estimates for 1969, considers that there is scope for greater reliance on a better deployment of staff resources, thereby avoiding automatic requests for additional temporary assistance funds. The Committee also feels that in some cases it may be questioned whether projects, though of value, have an absolute priority among those to which the limited resources of the Organization should be applied.

8. The Advisory Committee appreciates that the Council, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, has instituted a system to establish priorities among competing projects and programmes. At the same time it is of the opinion that there is room within the totality of the appropriations it has recommended for economic and social activities in the initial estimates for 1969, to make financial adjustments to carry out some of the additional urgent tasks called for by the Council. Moreover, the Committee is of the view that the additional amount of \$4,800 requested under Section 1 and a similar estimate under Section 10, and some of the additional funds requested for temporary assistance under chapter III of Section 3, can be absorbed within the appropriations the Committee has recommended for those sections in the initial budget estimates for 1969.

9. The Advisory Committee observes that the eight studies called for by resolution 1311 (XLIV) relating to the arrangements for the transfer of operative technology to developing countries, will be undertaken jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in co-operation with national research councils within the eight countries to be selected. The Secretary-General hopes to enlist financial support for this project from voluntary sources so as to reduce the costs to be borne by the regular budget. Accordingly, the Secretary-General is requesting approximately half of the total estimate of \$91,000, or \$46,000, for the field studies in 1969.

10. At the same time the Secretary-General cautions that should it not prove possible to finance the balance of these costs from extra-budgetary sources, he would request the necessary additional provisions in the supplementary estimates for 1969. The Advisory Committee hopes that the Secretary-General's appeal will receive a favourable response, and that further recourse to the United Nations regular budget in the form of supplementary estimates for 1969 will prove to be unnecessary.

11. The Advisory Committee notes that \$48,200 of the additional funds requested relates to the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1560th plenary meeting, on 2 August 1968, that the Committee for Development Planning should hold its fourth session in Bangkok rather than in New York, for which an amount of \$33,200 is already provided in the initial budget estimates for 1969. Thus the present request for \$48,200 represents the additional costs of holding the meetings at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. The Committee understands that this change of venue for the meetings of the Committee for Development Planning forms part of a series of meetings at the headquarters of the regional economic commissions. However, the Committee trusts that this change in the calendar of conferences was referred to the Committee on Conferences for approval. The Advisory Committee's recommendation is subject to such approval having been obtained from that Committee.

12. The Advisory Committee, in suggesting the following reductions in the revised estimates is also of the view that the Secretary-General will be able to make further reductions in the amount of \$108,300 proposed by the Committee.

Recapitulation of reductions recommended:

<u>Section</u>	\$ US
1. Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies	4,800
3. Salaries and wages, chapter III, other temporary assistance	20,400
10. General expenses	4,800
Total	<u>30,000</u>

13. If the Advisory Committee's recommendations are approved by the General Assembly, the revised estimates for 1969 resulting from the decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, calculated by the Secretary-General at \$138,300, will be reduced by \$30,000 to \$108,300.
