



Seventh session  
Agenda item 42

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. K.G. BRENNAN (Australia)

1. In the course of thirty meetings held between 20 October and 16 December 1952, the Fifth Committee considered in detail the budget estimates of the United Nations for the financial year 1953 as submitted by the Secretary-General and reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

At its 374th meeting on 16 December 1952, the Committee decided to recommend approval of appropriations in the total amount of \$48,327,700. As an offset against estimated 1953 expenditure, the Committee approved at its 373rd meeting an estimate of Miscellaneous Income of \$6,238,200, which amount will serve to reduce correspondingly the assessment of contributions from Member States to the seventh annual budget. Estimated net expenditure for 1953 will thus amount to \$42,089,500.

2. This amount will be subject to adjustments in accordance with the terms of Financial Regulation 5.2, estimated as follows:

(a) Supplementary appropriations for the financial year 1952	\$2,450,880
(b) Adjustment consequent on over-estimation of Miscellaneous Income for the financial year 1952	<u>330,000</u>
	\$2,780,880

Less:

(c) appropriation to be surrendered under Financial Regulations 4.3 and 4.4 in respect of the financial year 1951:

(i) part of the balance standing to the credit of surplus account at 31 December 1951	\$119,714*	
(ii) anticipated savings on liquidation of outstanding 1951 obligations	<u>550,666</u>	<u>\$ 670,380</u>
	Total	\$2,110,500

As a result of these adjustments, assessment of contributions from Member States for the financial year 1953 will amount, if appropriations are approved as recommended, to \$44,200,000, as compared with \$42,940,000 for 1952, or an increase of \$1,260,000.

3. The Committee had before it, as basic working documents, budget estimates and information annexes as submitted by the Secretary-General (A/2125 and Add.1) and the First Report to the seventh session of the General Assembly of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2157). In the course of its proceedings, and in the light of decisions taken in the meantime by the organs concerned, the Committee also received revised estimates for Sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 20 and 25, and for Section 5 (Investigations and Inquiries) as a result of the submission of more detailed estimates for various field missions for which only a token global provision had initially been presented. The Committee was required to deal also, in the course of its proceedings, with a number of supplementary items resulting from decisions taken by other Committees of the General Assembly, in addition to which it had before it proposals of the Secretary-General and recommendations with respect thereto of the Advisory Committee, on the size of the Working Capital Fund.

4. Throughout its meetings, the Committee had the assistance of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, who, in accordance with established practice, was invited to sit with the Committee and

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\* The balance standing to the credit of surplus account at 31 December 1951 was \$380,511 (A/2123). At its 373rd meeting the Fifth Committee recommended that of that amount a sum of \$260,797 be transferred to the Working Capital Fund.

participate in its deliberations. The Committee desires to record its high appreciation of the help it has received from the Advisory Committee whose more than forty reports on matters dealt with by the Fifth Committee during the seventh session greatly facilitated the successful completion of a lengthy and difficult agenda.

5. This report is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the Committee's budget discussions, a more detailed summary of which, including the points of view expressed by individual delegations, is contained in the official records. Its purpose is to provide a synopsis of the main points emerging from the Committee's discussion of the budget proposals for the financial year 1953.

6. The Committee followed past practice by having a general discussion of the budget as a whole, including related administrative and financial issues. The General discussion was preceded by statements made by the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General, after emphasizing that it was his purpose, in preparing the budget estimates, to go as far as he could to meet the desire for economy, announced that he would not contest many of the reductions totalling \$593,700 which the Advisory Committee had proposed, although he hoped that any reductions which the Fifth Committee might ultimately confirm would not be accompanied by rigid restrictions. He had, however, comments on the other reductions, totalling \$397,200, proposed by the Advisory Committee and would ask, in some cases, for an appropriation at the level of his estimates and in others for a deferment of a final decision until later during the Assembly when he would be able to give further relevant information. Reservations were also made by the Secretary-General with respect to reductions proposed in the estimates for transportation facilities and for common staff costs. Expenditures under common staff costs fell, for the most part, automatically under existing regulations and rules in addition to which recent developments arising from the Parkway Village settlement and from the recommendations of the Selection Committee on Temporary Contracts led him to believe that it would be under-budgeting to reduce his original estimates.

7. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee, in introducing his Committee's report, pointed out that the total of the reductions his Committee had recommended was lower than in any previous year and added that this was due not to relaxed vigilance on the part of the Committee, but to the fact that the Secretary-General had this year submitted a better budget. He believed that the reports of the

Advisory Committee, which formed a continuous series, should not only provide a basis each year for the discussion of the budget estimates, but also serve to emphasize certain principles for the guidance of the Secretary-General and for the efficient working of the Secretariat. His Committee had frequently drawn attention to the necessity for a clear separation of powers; the importance of a versatile Secretariat; the need for close co-ordination within and between the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies; and the necessity for determining a proper ratio of expenditure as between Headquarters and regional offices. The Advisory Committee had also repeatedly pressed for the strictest control of official travel, for a curtailment of expenditure for temporary assistance and consultants, and for a restriction on the volume of documentation. Expressing his satisfaction at the fact that the Secretary-General did not, for the most part, contest the Advisory Committee's recommendations, he said that these recommendations, insofar as they related to economic and social activities, were of a provisional nature pending submission of supplementary information concerning the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and examination of the question of a re-organization of the Secretariat in general and these departments in particular. While the Committee recommended a reduction in the estimates for publications, it had pointed out that "a reduction in the volume of documentation is not a matter which can be accomplished by the Secretariat action alone, but that, in its opinion, delegations could themselves contribute to the successful achievement of the aims of General Assembly Resolution 593 (VI) by a studied effort to carry out its terms."

8. The keynote of the general discussion which followed was an emphasis by most of these participating on the continuing upward trend of expenditures and the need for seeking a still greater measure of budgetary stabilization. While there was widespread appreciation of the efforts made in this direction by the Advisory Committee and by the Secretary-General himself, the importance was stressed of the United Nations making itself an example of efficiency, economy and simplicity to national administrations. This objective, it was suggested, could best be accomplished by putting first things first, by continuously reviewing the organization and work of the Secretariat and constantly seeking to improve its methods of operation. Certain delegations reaffirmed the view previously expressed in meetings of the Fifth Committee that the objective should

be to operate within a predetermined budget ceiling and suggested that serious consideration be given to the establishment of \$35,000,000 net as an appropriate target. This was sought to be achieved by effecting economies, in addition to those proposed by the Advisory Committee, particularly in staff costs and the elimination of certain activities which were deemed to be incompatible with the principles and provisions of the Charter. Other delegations, who were equally desirous of economy, did not consider a predetermined budget ceiling practicable or necessarily desirable. The universal desire for a stabilized budget did not mean that it should be made inflexible to a harmful degree, and serious misgivings were expressed as to whether such measures would not impair the work of vital services and hamper the execution of essential programmes. Such an approach, it was feared, might cut too deeply into essential expenditures without pruning sufficiently those of a less important or urgent character. Many Members therefore felt that a sounder way of effecting economy and achieving an adequate degree of stability might be to examine proposed activities, one by one, with a view to the restriction of those which lend themselves to curtailment or postponement without harmful consequences.

9. Subject to these general reservations, the specific recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report on the 1953 budget estimates were generally supported. In some instances, however, doubt was expressed as to whether the reductions proposed might not impair services or activities which some delegations considered should be maintained at least at the 1952 level of expenditure. In this connexion, repeated references were made to the cost of public information activities. It was agreed that the effectiveness of the Organization, as an instrument of international peace and security, should be measured by its positive achievements rather than by the publicity given to them. At the same time, the view was strongly held that the peoples of the world, on whose informed and insistent support the continuing success of the Organization so largely depended, must be kept fully informed of its aims and activities. It was urged that while the Sub-Committee appointed at the last session to review basic principles by which the Secretary-General should be guided in framing public information estimates had performed a useful task, the responsibility of deciding the level at which such activities should be maintained, was one which necessarily rested with the General Assembly itself.

10. Other directions in which economies were sought included the costs of temporary assistance, consultants, official travel and the expenses of meetings held away from Headquarters. On the last item, a number of delegations thought that with the new Headquarters fully equipped and available, the holding of meetings away from Headquarters should be discouraged. The view was also expressed, however, that reductions in the costs of meetings could be achieved by careful planning and scheduling of meetings with a view to the maximum utilization of available facilities both at Headquarters and in Geneva, and not by restricting meetings to Headquarters alone. Special attention was called to the comments and suggestions made by the Advisory Committee in Chapter 11 of its first report of 1952 (A/2157) with reference to temporary assistance, consultants and the offices of Assistant Secretaries-General and directors. These suggestions were welcomed as furnishing the framework of a policy within which the commendable efforts already made by the Secretary-General to reduce such costs to an essential minimum might be further developed.

11. The subject of re-organization of the Secretariat figured prominently in the general discussion. Some delegations voiced regret that the benefits of re-organization, particularly as regards the Departments of Economic and Social Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration, on which the Secretary-General had been requested to report, had not been reflected in the budget estimates for 1953. It was hoped, however, that the Committee's subsequent examination of the proposals for re-organization submitted by the Secretary-General would lead to effective economies in the coming years. In the same context, the suggestion was made that the relationship between the regional economic commissions and Headquarters should be kept constantly under review to prevent unnecessary or avoidable expenses. The regional economic commissions might with advantage concentrate their resources on a smaller number of well-chosen fields of activity since multiplication of activities involved the danger of overlapping and duplication with work being done at Headquarters.

12. The point was made by several delegations in the course of their observations on the general budgetary situation, that responsibility for continuing increases in expenditure did not rest with the Secretary-General alone. On the contrary, such increases as had in fact occurred, arose for the most part from decisions

taken by United Nations bodies themselves. The Secretary-General had no alternative other than to interpret in his budget estimates the financial implications of such decisions. While the Secretary-General could do much in the future as he had done in the past, towards achieving the desired budgetary objectives, much more depended, in the last analysis, on the willingness and ability of Member Governments to pursue consistent and co-ordinated policies in the various Councils, Commissions and Committees of the United Nations on which they are represented.

13. During the discussions, the Fifth Committee had referred back to the Advisory Committee two specific items on which that Committee had already made its recommendations. The first was the estimate for the passenger cars of the Organization, the second the estimates for public information activities.

14. At the 366th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee recalled that at a previous meeting he had made, on behalf of the Advisory Committee, certain comments on this procedure since his Committee had reached its decisions only after exhaustive consideration. He stated that the Advisory Committee, while ready at all times to facilitate the Fifth Committee's work, wondered whether that new procedure, which had twice been followed during the present session, might not conflict with the Advisory Committee's terms of reference. He thought further that the Fifth Committee would wish to know the actual procedure of budgetary examination followed by the Advisory Committee.

15. Before making any recommendation to the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee invariably requested the views of the Secretary-General. An opportunity was presented to the Secretary-General or to his representative of setting before the Advisory Committee all relevant considerations - administrative, budgetary, financial and other. Thus, before the Advisory Committee reached its decision - which was invariably taken in executive session - the Secretary-General had made known his views to the Committee. In all cases where a recommendation of the Advisory Committee was at variance with a proposal of the Secretary-General, that recommendation was made in the full knowledge of the Secretary-General's attitude, and detailed reasons for the recommendation were given in its report. It then remained for the General Assembly or the Fifth Committee to choose between the two views, or, if they so wished, not to concur in either. Under

its terms of reference the Advisory Committee was bound, when examining the Secretary-General's budget estimates, to rely on objective criteria. It was therefore obvious that to request a solution agreeable to both, set up a new principle at variance with the process of objective budget scrutiny. In brief, the Advisory Committee's attention would be diverted from exact criteria and the Committee invited to play the role of friendly arbitrator. The Advisory Committee would therefore be grateful if the Fifth Committee, in view of that statutory position, would reserve to itself alone, the role of arbitrator, or alternatively, would continue as formerly, to reach its decisions solely on the merits of submissions made respectively by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. Members of the Fifth Committee regarded this statement as laying down a principle of general application by which the Committee should be guided in the future.

#### Global Reduction in the 1953 total appropriations

16. At its 352nd meeting, after consideration of a provisional forecast on Members assessments for 1953 distributed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/L.182), the delegation of the United Kingdom submitted a proposal that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to make recommendations for its consideration on the second reading, which would reduce the total appropriation requested for 1953 to a maximum of \$48,700,000, gross. It was explained that on the evidence then available, the likely level of assessment would be some \$2,000,000 above that of 1952. The United Kingdom delegation suggested that the Secretary-General should be asked to make savings of the order of \$735,000, which would produce a provisional assessment of \$44,500,000; that sum, although being substantially higher than the 1952 level, would still make ample allowance for such special expenses as the higher amortization charge on the Headquarters loan and also for additional funds needed for Headquarters Construction Costs. It was further suggested that the Fifth Committee should neither apply particular reductions to particular chapters, nor fix an arbitrary maximum ceiling for expenditure, but should request the Secretary-General to make the necessary savings by making over all administrative cuts "across the board" and himself inform the Committee how such savings could be distributed.



17. A wide measure of support for the United Kingdom proposal was expressed. Some members, however, were concerned at the precedent it might establish. They considered that an "across the board" cut might result in the elimination or curtailment of measures which had considerable support among members, or precipitate a series of bargainings on the second reading which would be out of keeping with the Committee's responsibilities. Several representatives stressed that the Committee should not look on its task as being merely to reduce appropriations, but should regard itself as having an obligation to ensure that any funds appropriated were used in the most economical and rational way possible. They considered it illogical for the Committee to invite the Secretary-General to suggest additional reductions, before it had taken a final decision on the Advisory Committee's original recommendations.

18. At the Committee's 355th meeting, the Secretary-General expressed his agreement with the underlying purposes of the United Kingdom proposal and undertook to submit recommendations on the second reading which would give effect to it. He suggested that meanwhile the Fifth Committee follow its normal procedure and deal with the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the initial estimates as it always had done. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee wholly agreed with this view, since it was not open to the Advisory Committee to submit recommendations having political implications, these being fully within the jurisdiction of the Fifth Committee. He explained that in the particular situation arising from the United Kingdom proposal, the Secretary-General would prepare a report for examination by the Fifth Committee. During that examination, certain directives could if necessary, be issued by the Fifth Committee to serve as a basis for the Advisory Committee's subsequent recommendations on how best to attain the set objective without impairing the United Nations work. The Committee adopted, by 44 votes to none, with 6 abstentions, the proposal of the United Kingdom, amended in accordance with a suggestion by the United States delegation.

19. At its 371st meeting the Committee referred to the Advisory Committee the proposals made by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/526) pursuant to its previous decision and considered at its 373rd meeting both the Secretary-General's report and the thirty-seventh report of the Advisory Committee upon it (A/2306). The Secretary-General's report enumerated two groups of items totalling \$303,150,

which had appeared in the Secretary-General's provisional forecast of members assessments but which had been since eliminated by the Fifth Committee and which left a balance of \$431,850 if the target of \$735,000 were to be achieved. The Secretary-General's report also indicated how he proposed to achieve reductions in this amount without impairing any of the substantive programmes of the United Nations.\* The Secretary-General requested some flexibility effecting the reductions and proposed that the total sum of \$431,850 be deducted from the budget under a new section 33, "global reductions to be achieved on various sections of the budget". He asked for authority to administer as a unit the total credit for travel on official business, for which an over-all reduction of \$25,000 had been proposed.

20. In its report, the Advisory Committee expressed its high appreciation of the manner in which the Secretary-General had complied with the request of the Fifth Committee and its view that his proposals were in accord with the intent of the Fifth Committee's resolution. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended that the total 1953 appropriation should be reduced by the sum of \$431,850 proposed by the Secretary-General, and concurred in the procedure suggested to secure that reduction.

21. During the examination of the specific proposals the delegation of New Zealand proposed that an additional \$8,000 be provided in order to permit two interne training programmes in 1953 instead of one as suggested by the Secretary-General. This motion was adopted by 17 votes to 3, with 15 abstentions.

22. In the light of the above considerations, the Committee, at its 373rd meeting, agreed by 33 votes to none, to adopt the following proposals:

- (i) that provision be made under a new Section 33 for global reduction in the 1953 appropriations of \$423,850;
- (ii) that a sub-paragraph be added to the draft appropriation resolution authorizing the Secretary-General to apply this global reduction under Section 33 to the various Sections of the budget;
- (iii) that a further sub-paragraph be added to the appropriation resolution authorizing the Secretary-General "to administer as a unit the appropriation provided in the various Sections in Part III of the budget for travel on official business".

The delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics supported the reduction, but was categorically opposed to a budget ceiling for 1953 of \$48,700,000.

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\* Proposed reductions included: delayed recruitment and staff replacement (\$224,350); contractual arrangements and maintenance (\$72,000); supplies, services and other items (\$61,000); trainees and internes programmes (\$49,500) and official travel (\$25,000).

Matters arising from decisions taken at the Fourteenth Session of the Economic and Social Council

23. The Committee's action on the various budgetary appropriations necessary to implement the decisions of the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council are dealt with, for the most part, in the following pages of this report under the appropriate section heading in which the sums would fall in the budget. Certain points of general applicability or which affect more than one section of the 1953 budget may be conveniently summarized at this stage. The first relates to the decision of the Economic and Social Council to hold its sixteenth session at Geneva in 1953 and a similar decision regarding the ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The Committee considered at its 354th and 355th meetings the financial implications of these decisions based upon estimates submitted by the Advisory Committee in its eighth report (A/2245).

24. The President of the Economic and Social Council, addressing the Committee, recalled that the Council at its 657th plenary meeting had adopted a French proposal to designate Geneva as the venue for the sixteenth session of the Council and he reviewed the chief arguments adduced for and against that proposal during the Council's session. Those representatives supporting a request for additional credits to implement the Council's decision emphasized the desirability of a reasonable decentralization of sessions and stressed that it was essential to make the fullest use, both of the staff and of the facilities in the United Nations Office at Geneva. They were also of the opinion that it was possible to accomplish a heavier workload in the same period as compared with New York during the summer months. They recalled also that the specialized agencies had urged the holding of the Council's session at Geneva and the Fifth Committee was constantly being asked to ensure closer co-operation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

25. Representatives opposing the request for supplementary credits stressed the point that the facilities at Headquarters were entirely sufficient and should be fully utilized; the reasons for holding the sessions away from Headquarters should be so substantial that they outweighed the financial, administrative and other disadvantages to Governments and the dislocation of the secretariat resulting from decentralization of its activities. It was

pointed out that the Council would accomplish just as much work if it met at Headquarters and since 1953 will be a difficult year from a financial point of view, the additional expenditure caused by the Council's meeting in Geneva would add a burden which the 1953 budget could not easily support. Some of these representatives stated that their opposition related to the year 1953 only pending the acceptance of a well drafted plan for the most effective use of the facilities available, both at the Geneva Office and at Headquarters, and an appropriate pattern of conferences for all United Nations organs.

26. In the light of this exchange of views, the Fifth Committee took the following decisions:

1. It approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$120,000 distributed between Section 3 and Section 20 as representing the estimated cost of holding the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva instead of at Headquarters by 17 votes to 14, with 11 abstentions.

2. It approved an additional appropriation of \$40,000 as recommended by the Advisory Committee for distribution between Section 3 and Section 20 as representing the cost of holding the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva instead of at Headquarters. This recommendation was adopted by 18 votes to 13, with 11 abstentions.

27. The second question related to ECOSOC resolution 442 (XIV), whereby Council decided to appoint for an experimental period of one year and in a personal capacity, a rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information. The Secretary-General had included in his estimate of \$8,800, a provision of \$2,500 to cover payment of an honorarium. The Advisory Committee in its eighth report (A/2245) had recalled that only in exceptional cases had the General Assembly concurred in the payment of honoraria for work performed on behalf of the United Nations and had stated its preference, in the present case for a provision on a per diem basis within a maxima of \$2,000, recommending a total estimate of \$8,300. There was general recognition that the important question was not the sum involved but whether any subsidiary organ of the General Assembly should have the right to appoint a rapporteur on the understanding that an honorarium would be paid. The Committee at its 356th

Meeting approved a proposal of the United States to restore the estimate to its original level of \$8,800 in the specific instance before it. At the same time, however, it referred to the Advisory Committee a draft resolution also proposed by the delegation of the United States (A/C.5/L.187) which would instruct all organs of the United Nations to obtain prior General Assembly approval before taking decisions which would involve commitments to pay honoraria.

28. The Committee considered the Advisory Committee's sixteenth report (A/2264) dealing with this question at its 366th meeting. The representative of the United States withdrew the proposal previously made on behalf of his delegation in favour of an alternative text proposed in the Advisory Committee's report which would suggest that the General Assembly should express its recognition of the fact that the appointment of a person as rapporteur of a United Nations body confers honour upon his country and distinction upon himself, and that no such appointment should carry remuneration. It was explained that this text was designed to lay emphasis on the purposes contemplated in the United States draft resolution, by underlining the principle that the office of rapporteur in the United Nations, being an office of honour, not profit, carries no emoluments. Most of the members taking part in the discussion, endorsed the principle underlying the proposed text but some, without dissenting from the view that no commitment could be entered into except with the prior consent of the General Assembly, considered that cases should be judged on their merits and that the text proposed was too rigid. It was agreed that remuneration should not be understood as meaning subsistence allowances for the payment of which there existed valid reasons.

29. In the light of its discussion the Committee approved the draft resolution proposed by the Advisory Committee by 46 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, and accordingly recommends to the General Assembly adoption of the draft resolution which is included at the end of this report.

30. The third question arising from consideration of the financial implications of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, concerns the budgetary provision necessary for the financing of groups of experts reporting to the

Council and its functional commissions. The Advisory Committee had stressed the importance of preliminary work being done to the fullest extent possible before hand by the specialist staff members of the United Nations and, where necessary, in consultation with specialist staff members of any specialized agency concerned in the study, in order to reduce to a minimum the length of the session of any expert group. Payment of fees in addition to travel and subsistence expenses to members of Commissions and Committees, whether serving as experts or in a representative capacity, could not, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, be reconciled with the principles adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 231 (III) and reaffirmed in resolution 459 (V). In this connexion, the Fifth Committee noted the intention of the Secretary-General to endeavour to secure the services of members of these groups on the basis of payment of subsistence allowances only, and not to pay additional remuneration, unless such payment was essential to secure the services of a particular person.

Proposed exchange of properties between the United Nations and the Competent authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva

31. At its 366th meeting, the Committee considered a proposal from the Secretary-General (A/C.5/510) concerning the proposed exchange of two properties adjoining the Palais des Nations. Those properties were "le Chêne" at present owned by the United Nations, and "le Bocage" which the Republic of Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva had recently purchased from a private owner. The Committee had before it in this connexion the fourteenth report of the Advisory Committee (A/2262), which emphasized the fact that protection of the amenities of the Palais was a matter of considerable importance to Member States, and that the proposed exchange, which was the outcome of negotiations and formal agreement with the cantonal authorities, would afford a safeguard against the commercial development of any part of the properties surrounding the Palais des Nations. The Advisory Committee had considered the financial implications of the exchange on the assumption that the conclusions given by the Secretary-General had been corroborated by local technical experts,

and its report gave the Committee details indicating that the two properties were considered to be of substantially the same value. The Advisory Committee considered that the possibility of establishing the permanent Headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization at "le Bocage", which was suitable for conversion into office accommodations, should not be overlooked, and the Fifth Committee was informed by the representative of the Secretary-General that that suggestion would be studied in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization. In the light of the information submitted and on the understanding that the negotiations could be concluded without financial outlay, the Fifth Committee approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in regard to this question, by 40 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Increase in the amount of the Working Capital Fund

32. The Committee had before it a proposal from the Secretary-General (A/C.5/515) to retain in the Working Capital Fund the balance of surplus account as at 31 December 1950 (\$1,239,203) which had been temporarily transferred to the Working Capital Fund at the sixth session of the Assembly and the balance of surplus account as at 31 December 1951 (\$380,511). This proposal was submitted to the Advisory Committee which in its twenty-first report (A/2273) expressed the opinion that the level of the Working Capital Fund was somewhat too low for the needs of the organization and concurred in the proposals of the Secretary-General.

33. The Reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee were considered by the Fifth Committee at its 367th meeting. While some members were opposed to any increase in the Fund above \$20 million, the majority agreed with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to retain in the Fund the balance of surplus account at 31 December 1950. This proposal was approved by 39 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions. The Committee, however, by 17 votes to 11 with 21 abstentions, approved a French proposal to defer until the second reading a decision in the proposal regarding the transfer of the balance of surplus account at 31 December 1951 (\$380,511).

34. At the 373rd meeting of the Committee, a proposal was made by the delegation of France that the amount of the Working Capital Fund be fixed for 1953 at \$21,500,000, by transferring to the Fund a part only (namely, \$260,797)

of the balance of surplus account at 31 December 1951 and leaving the remainder (\$119,714) to be offset against the contributions of Member States for 1953. The representative of the Secretary-General said that he would not raise any objection to the proposal which was then approved by 28 votes to 6 with 2 abstentions.

35. At its 367th meeting, the Committee also gave consideration to a proposal by the delegation of Australia which was related both to certain aspects of the problem of the size of the Working Capital Fund and to the proposal of the Secretary-General for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 under Section 31(a) of the budget for the financing of Headquarters construction costs. The Australian proposal was that the amount of \$1,000,000 be included in Section 31(a) of the budget on first reading but that a Working Group of the Fifth Committee be appointed to discuss with member governments the extent to which firm undertakings could be given that all or a substantial part of their contributions could be paid in the first half of 1953. If the discussion of the Working Group showed that contributions likely to be received in the early part of 1953 would make possible the temporary financing of all Headquarters construction costs out of the Working Capital Fund, the item of \$1,000,000 might be eliminated. The Australian proposal was approved by 36 votes to 5 with 6 abstentions, following which the Chairman appointed a Working Group consisting of the representative of Denmark as Chairman and the representatives of Australia, Egypt, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan and Poland.

36. The Working Group held three meetings, in the course of which it held discussions with representatives of member countries, taking as a basis the replies submitted in response to the enquiries instituted by the Secretary-General as a result of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 585 (VI). That resolution, in paragraph 6, had invited member states to examine methods whereby within the limits of their constitutional processes a substantial proportion of their contributions would be paid within the first quarter of each year. The responses of member governments to this invitation are summarized in a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/516).

37. The Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Finn T.B. Friis (Denmark) submitted a report from the Working Group (A/C.5/539). The report indicated that on the basis of replies submitted by governments in response to General Assembly resolution 585 (VI) and the statements made to the Working Group,



the Secretary-General estimated that approximately 27.79 per cent of the total 1953 contributions might be expected during the first six months of that year as compared with 19.13 per cent of the 1952 contributions actually collected during the first six months of 1952. The report also drew attention to the relationship of the volume of arrears to the problem which it had under consideration.

38. The report of the Working Group was considered at the 374th meeting of the Fifth Committee. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that while he appreciated the work of the Working Group and the co-operation of governments which had given undertaking regarding the early payment of the contributions, he did not consider it would be safe either to reduce the size of the Working Capital Fund or to eliminate any part of the appropriation under Section 31(a) of the budget. A tentative estimate of expenses likely to arise in the first half of 1953 indicated that, if contributions in the first half of 1953 were received in accordance with the undertakings given to the Working Group, the balance in the Working Capital Fund as at 30 June 1953 would not be greatly in excess of three million dollars. He thought that such a margin was insufficient to justify the Secretary-General's agreeing to any proposal which might have the effect of decreasing the cash resources available. He thought, however, that the position might be reviewed at the eighth session of the Assembly in the light of the actual record of contributions in 1953, especially since concern had been expressed on the rate of payment in relation to the size of the Working Capital Fund and the demands upon it.

The Committee accordingly decided to leave the full amount of \$1 million in Section 31(a) of the budget.

#### Other matters

39. In its report to the General Assembly under item 62 of the agenda, the adoption of Spanish as a working language for the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions (A/2283), the Committee advised the General Assembly that anticipated expenditures for this purpose during 1953 could be held within a maximum of \$350,000. At the second reading of the estimates, the Committee confirmed this total sum in the appropriate sectional amounts as indicated by the Secretary-General, in his summary of the budget situation (A/C.5/538).

40. The Committee's conclusions upon individual sections of the 1953 budget are recorded in the following part of this report.

### Section 1 - The General Assembly, Commissions and Committees

At its 365th meeting, the estimate of \$640,000, recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report to the seventh session of the General Assembly (A/2157), was unanimously approved in first reading. At the same meeting a supplementary appropriation of \$7,400 was approved in respect of a meeting of the International Law Commission at Geneva during 1953. At the 352nd meeting, a further \$3,000 was approved to provide for hire of a car for the President during sessions of the General Assembly.

The Committee's decision, at its 360th meeting, to appropriate under other relevant Sections of the budget, a total amount of \$350,000 to permit the use of Spanish as a third working language by the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions made possible a reduction of \$47,000 in the appropriation as finally approved (\$603,400) for this Section.

### Section 2 - The Security Council, Commissions and Committees

At its 365th meeting, the Committee approved without objection the maintenance of the Section pro forma in the 1953 budget, noting that the necessary sums for printing the official records of the Security Council were provided for in Section 25 - Official Records.

### Section 3 - The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees

The Secretary-General's original estimates for this Section having been prepared before the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, revised estimates were submitted to the Committee at its 356th meeting (A/C.5/498 and Add.1), in addition to which the Committee had before it the eighth report of the Advisory Committee (A/2245), recommending a total provision under Section 3 of \$219,900.

The Committee rejected two proposals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; the first, to reduce the estimates by a sum of \$6,100 in respect of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (28 votes to 6, with 18 abstentions); the second, to reduce the

estimates by a sum of \$30,000 in respect of the Ad Hoc Committee on Forced Labour (41 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions).

The Committee's discussion on the requisite budgetary provision for holding the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council and the ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights during 1953 in Geneva, is dealt with in paragraphs 23-26 above. For these purposes an additional appropriation of \$70,000 was accepted. The Committee next approved specifically and without objection a provision of \$30,600 for meetings at Headquarters during 1953 of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Social Commission and the Statistical Commission, and a further provision of \$25,000 for the Committee on the Financing of Economic Development of Under-Developed Countries. By 30 votes to 6, with 11 abstentions, an appropriation of \$5,800 for the purpose of implementing resolution 442 (XIV) of the Economic and Social Council concerning the appointment of a Rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information, was also approved.

Provision for the remaining items on the 1953 Council programme as originally estimated by the Secretary-General and concurred in by the Advisory Committee, together with the items noted above, involved a total appropriation for Section 3 of \$220,400, which was approved at first reading without objection.

Consequent on the distribution of the total estimated costs of the adoption of Spanish as a third working language of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions this total was increased on second reading by \$31,800, and by a further \$11,000 under the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh session with respect to the financing of economic development through the establishment of fair and equitable international prices for primary commodities and through the execution of national programmes of integrated economic development.

A final appropriation for Section 3 in the amount of \$263,200 was therefore confirmed during the second reading of the estimates.

Section 3 (a) - Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body

At its 356th meeting, the Committee approved, without objections, the estimate of \$20,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee for Section 3 (a).

Sections 3 (b), 22 and 23 - Regional Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and Latin America

At its 356th meeting, the Committee considered the budgetary provision for meetings of the Regional Economic Commission during 1953 (Section 3 (b)), and at its 354th meeting, the budgetary provision for the supporting Secretariat of the two regional economic commissions for Asia and the Far East and for Latin America (Sections 22 and 23).

In its consideration of these estimates, particular attention was drawn to paragraphs 18 and 146 of the first report of the Advisory Committee (A/2157). The Fifth Committee endorsed the views of the Advisory Committee that in submitting the estimates for 1954 the Secretary-General should indicate the feasibility of meeting any continuing expansion of activity in the regions by a steady if not strictly proportionate contraction at Headquarters. In the light of its review, the Committee approved unanimously at first reading, the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee; as follows:

Section 3 (b), \$96,000; Section 22, ECAFE Secretariat - \$1,030,000; Section 23 - ECLA Secretariat, \$866,000.

Section 4 - Trusteeship Council, Commissions and Committees

At its 372nd meeting, the Committee considered the estimates for Section 4 relating specifically to requirements for the 1953 Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific. Following decision of the Trusteeship Council the Secretary-General had submitted proposals for an appropriation of \$59,900 (A/C.5/929). The Advisory Committee had recommended a total of \$55,000 (A/2300), indicating that a reduction of one, in the proposed number of Secretariat officials accompanying the Mission, should be possible. Members of the Committee discussed in detail the work which the 1953 Visiting Mission would be required to accomplish, and although the Committee noted that the sum of \$55,000 exceeded the amount recommended for the 1950 Visiting Mission in the Pacific, several members felt that they could not support any reduction in an appropriation which would lead to a curtailment of United Nations activities in Trust Territories. The

Committee accepted a proposal of the delegation of the Dominican Republic for an increase of \$4,900 in the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee and approved by 26 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions, a first reading estimate of \$59,000 for Section 4.

#### Section 5 - Investigations and Enquiries

To provide for the requirements of United Nations Missions, the Advisory Committee, in its first report (A/2157) had recommended, on a provisional basis, a global appropriation of \$2,000,000. Subsequently detailed estimates were submitted by the Secretary-General in amplification of this global appropriation, in addition to which the Committee, as a basis for its consideration, had before it the following reports of the Advisory Committee: Korean Service Medals (A/2260), United Nations Tribunal in Libya (A/2271), United Nations Tribunal in Eritrea (A/2274), United Nations Military Observers in Greece (A/2292), Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (A/2291), Advisory Council for Italian Somaliland (A/2293), United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (A/2304), Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine (A/2305). In each case the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee were approved. For reasons set out in the official records of the Committee's meetings, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, supported by other representatives, voiced the opposition of their delegations to the provision of budgetary credits for these activities.

At its 366th meeting, the Committee considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/509) on the cost of provision of Korean Service Medals which he anticipated would amount in total to \$429,000. However, since it appeared unlikely that all the medals would become available in 1953, the Committee approved an appropriation of \$300,000 in the 1953 budget and decided that the Secretary-General should be authorised to make advances from the Working Capital Fund not exceeding \$129,000 to cover any additional costs arising in 1953.

At its 367th meeting, the Committee, by 39 votes to 5, approved estimates totalling \$120,000 to cover the expenses of the United Nations Tribunal in Libya,

and by 38 votes to 5, estimates totalling \$25,700, for the United Nations Tribunal in Eritrea.

At its 370th meeting, the Committee, by 34 votes to 5, approved estimates totalling \$680,000, to cover expenses of the Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, and by 35 votes to 5, estimates totalling \$110,000 and \$145,000 to cover the respective expenses of the United Nations Military Observers in Greece and the Advisory Council for Italian Somaliland.

At its 373rd meeting, the Committee, by 33 votes to 5, approved estimates totalling \$450,000 to cover expenses of the Truce Supervision Organization for Palestine, and by 30 votes to 5, estimated totalling \$250,000 for the requirements of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

At its 370th meeting, the Committee, under rule 152 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, agreed by 37 votes to none, with 6 abstentions, to advise the General Assembly that adoption of the draft resolution proposed by the Ad Hoc Political Committee on the Repatriation of Greek Children would involve an appropriation of \$15,000 under Section 5. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to advise the General Assembly under rule 152 of the rules of procedure that adoption of the draft resolution of the Ad Hoc Political Committee concerning the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine would involve an appropriation of \$45,000 under the same Section. These amounts had been recommended by the Advisory Committee in its thirtieth and thirty-ninth reports (A/2297; A/2308).

On the understanding that an adjustment would be made in the total of the estimates for Section 5, should the General Assembly's action upon the above-mentioned resolutions so require, the Committee, at its second reading, approved by 35 votes to 5, a total credit of \$2,140,700 for the Section after it had rejected a proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to delete from the budget a similar sum. In approving these sums the Committee endorsed paragraph 94 of the Advisory Committee's report and noted the assurance of the Secretary-General that he would arrange for suitable on-the-spot investigations.

#### Section 5 (a) - United Nations Field Service

At the Committee's 375th meeting, the delegate of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed the deletion from the budget of any provision for the United Nations Field Service on the grounds that such a service was inconsistent

with the provisions of the Charter. The Committee, after rejecting by 27 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposal, decided by 31 votes to 5 to approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation under this Section of \$546,200.

#### Section 6 - Executive Office of the Secretary-General

At its 344th meeting, the Committee approved unanimously at first reading, the estimate of \$458,600 recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

#### Section 6 (a) - Library

In the course of the Committee's discussion, at its 356th meeting, of the estimates for this Section, the importance of the services provided by the Library, both to the Delegations and to the Secretariat was widely recognized. Concern was expressed, however, that the Library should be administered as efficiently and as economically as possible and in this connexion comparison was drawn by several delegations between the number of staff employed by the United Nations Libraries at Geneva and Headquarters respectively. Particular attention was called to the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 112 and 113 of its first report (A/2157), with reference to the elimination or further consolidation of departmental branch units and to the necessity of pursuing at all times a selective policy in the matter of acquisitions, whether by purchase, gift or exchange. In response to requests for additional information concerning plans for a new Library building, the Committee was informed that the existing building would, in any event, be retained, although it might be structurally modified. There was general agreement that the organization and staffing of the Headquarters Library should be the subject of a special review, both by the Secretary-General and by the Advisory Committee.

Subject to the views expressed, the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$475,000 was approved without objection on first reading.

Section 7 - Department of Political and Security Council Affairs

At its 344th meeting, the Committee approved unanimously at first reading the estimate of \$769,200, originally submitted by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Section 8 - Military Staff Committee Secretariat

The Committee at its 344th meeting approved unanimously an estimate of \$137,000 for Section 8, to cover expenses of the Military Staff Committee Secretariat.

Sections 9, 27, 28 and 29 - Technical Assistance Administration; Social Activities; Economic Development and Public Administration

The discussion in the Committee at its 345th meeting on the technical assistance activities of the United Nations covered a wider field than in past years, inasmuch as the total administrative expenditures of such activities including the part met out of the Special Account allocations, were under examination in accordance with the provisions of resolution 594 (VI) of the General Assembly.

The Advisory Committee had recommended that the appropriations requested in Sections 9, 27, 28 and 29 should be approved, but thought that the estimate for administrative and indirect operational expenditures - \$1,639,000 - in a total budget estimated at approximately ten million (gross), should be reduced to \$1,389,000. The reduction of \$250,000 in administrative and indirect operational costs, while not affecting the actual budget appropriations, would release an equivalent amount for operational expenses of the programme as a whole.

The representative of the Secretary-General undertook to examine carefully and give effect to the Advisory Committee's recommendations to the fullest extent possible but expressed the hope that the reduction in the level of administrative costs suggested by the Advisory Committee should be looked upon as an objective to be sought rather than an obligation.



Members of the Committee were generally satisfied by the assurances given by the representative of the Secretary-General, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee confirmed that his Committee was asking for nothing more than a conscientious effort to achieve the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee noted that the 1953 estimates presented for the Technical Assistance Administration indicating the anticipated costs of administrative and operational activities, had been subject to closer scrutiny than in past years in accordance with the Committee's previously expressed views. Some members considered, however, that since in all agencies concerned, expenditures for technical assistance activities amounted to a considerable sum, the present arrangement which allowed for insufficient legislative control was unsound and that it should not become permanent.

It was also pointed out, with regard to the Advisory Committee's reference to excessive paper work in the Technical Assistance Administration, that governments could help in achieving economy in this direction by asking for fewer and shorter reports.

The Committee approved unanimously the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee, viz: \$386,700 for Section 9; \$768,500 for Section 27; \$479,400 for Section 28 and \$145,000 for Section 29.

Section 10 - Department of Economic Affairs, and Section 11 - Department of Social Affairs

The Committee began consideration of the estimates for the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs, at its 354th meeting, its review covering the total estimates for these two Sections, as modified by the decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session. Discussion was based on revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/498) and a report thereon by the Advisory Committee (A/2245).

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics recalled how the Advisory Committee and several delegations had on different occasions emphasized the need to simplify the structure of the two Departments in order to increase output and to avoid unnecessary expenditure. In this connexion he referred specifically to paragraphs 12 to 16 of the Fifth Committee's report to the sixth session (A/2022) wherein the Secretary-General was requested to review

the whole structure of the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration as well as the system of co-ordination between them within the context of a wider re-organization of the Secretariat and to report to the General Assembly at its seventh session. In keeping with this decision, he proposed that the 1953 budget estimates should provide for an amalgamation of the Department of Economic Affairs and the Department of Social Affairs and to that end he further proposed that the appropriations requested for the two Departments be reduced by \$400,000 and \$300,000 respectively.

After preliminary discussion of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic's proposals, the Committee decided to defer their consideration until it had received the comments of the Advisory Committee on the Secretary-General's recommendations for a broader re-organization of the Secretariat (A/2214). The Committee also requested the Advisory Committee to take into consideration the proposals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic representative in preparing its report.

Discussion of the budget estimates for Sections 10 and 11 was continued at the 371st meeting, on the basis of the relevant observations of the Advisory Committee (paragraphs 8-12 of document A/2290) and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics draft resolution (A/C.5/L.185). There being no general comments on the estimates for Sections 10 and 11 as a whole, the Committee proceeded to a decision on the specific appropriations to be recommended.

#### Section 10 - Department of Economic Affairs

The Committee noted the Advisory Committee's statement (A/2290) that having regard to the administrative measures contemplated and the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General in response to the United Kingdom request for over-all budgetary savings, it was unable to make a recommendation on the further reductions proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics delegation. The Committee rejected, by 30 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic's proposal (A/C.5/L.185) for reduction of \$400,000 in the appropriation for Section 10 recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Committee then approved (by 33 votes to 5, with 1 abstention) the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$2,304,000.

Section 11 - Department of Social Affairs

The Committee noted that, as in the case of Section 10, the Advisory Committee felt unable to recommend further reductions. The Committee rejected (by 30 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions) the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposal (A/C.5/L.185) for a reduction of \$300,000 in the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee. By 35 votes to 5, with no abstentions, the Committee approved the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$1,749,500 for Section 11.

Section 12 - Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories

Estimates for the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories were considered by the Committee at its 346th meeting.

In reply to an enquiry as to the feasibility of merging the Specialists Unit and the Territorial Research and Analysis Section as recommended by the Advisory Committee, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that since the functions of the two sections were entirely different, no saving in staff would result. He added that constant efforts were being made to increase the flexibility of departmental staff.

In consideration of the proposed reduction of \$4,000 for established posts, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee agreed to the Assistant Secretary-General's proposal that this saving be effected by reclassification rather than reduction of professional posts.

The Committee approved unanimously estimates for Section 12 totalling \$950,000.

Sections 13 and 21, and Section 26, Chapter I (vii and xi); Chapter II (ii) - Department of Public Information, the Information Centres and Publications, relating to Public Information Activities

The estimates for public information activities as a whole were considered initially by the Committee at its 349th, 350th and 351st meetings. The Advisory Committee in its first report (A/2157) had recommended that the estimates originally submitted by the Secretary-General for these Sections be reduced from

\$4,042,440 to \$3,899,840, or, a total reduction of \$142,600. The Secretary-General had not contested the reduction of \$5,100 relating to the Geneva Information Centre (Section 20) but did contest the balance of \$137,500.

It was stated on behalf of the Secretary-General, that, through efficient and economical management, certain substantial and unavoidable cost increases which had arisen during the previous three years, had already been met, without requesting an appropriation in 1953 exceeding that of 1952. If the cuts recommended were implemented, such action would impair the information services of the organization, which had been brought to their present state of effectiveness in full accord with the basic principles decided upon by the General Assembly at the previous session. For that reason, it was stated, the Secretary-General felt himself unable to accept the considerable reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee.

Some delegations stressing the need for strict economy to achieve a stabilization of the organization's budget, believed that the time had come when a serious attempt should be made to determine a definite relationship from the budgetary aspect between public information expenditures and the total expenditures of the organization. They stressed the need for an order of priorities for information services, and considered that the Committee should make its decision on the appropriation with the above points in mind and with some knowledge of what the actual assessment on members was likely to be.

Other delegations expressed the view that the value of public information services could not be evaluated in purely monetary terms and it was in the economically less developed countries that fuller coverage could be given. On account of the importance of public information services, it was thought that their present level should be maintained.

These delegations pointed out the importance of the organization's public information services in continuing its educational tasks and in making known its activities and the results achieved. In particular, these impartial information services were valued highly by small countries, which, in many cases, had no national information agencies, or had inadequate news agency services to provide their populations with all of the facts and information they required.

A number of delegations were of the opinion that there might be room for savings in the organization and distribution of Information Centres.

As a result of its discussions, several delegations moved proposals affecting the budget for information activities.

The representative of Poland believing that even more substantial economies than those recommended by the Advisory Committee were possible, proposed that the estimates be reduced by a sum of \$250,000 below the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The representative of Australia proposed that the estimates be approved at a level of \$250,000 below the Secretary-General's estimates, on the understanding that considerable elasticity would be allowed in transfers between Sections concerned, in order to avoid excessive dislocation of the existing programmes.

The representative of China proposed that sums totalling \$74,000 be added to the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee with the purpose of restoring to the estimates of the Secretary-General approximately half the amount of the reductions proposed.

The representative of the Philippines, supported by other delegations, proposed that the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee be increased by a sum of \$137,500, thus restoring the estimates to the level proposed by the Secretary-General.

In view of the widely divergent opinions expressed in the Committee the representative of Sweden, proposed that the estimates be referred back to the Advisory Committee with a request that efforts should be made, in consultation with the Secretary-General and in the light of the Committee's discussion, to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

Several delegations expressed the opinion that this action would create a dangerous precedent, as no new evidence to be placed before the Advisory Committee had emerged from the discussions to date and that therefore adoption of this course would only lead to reaching a solution on which neither the Advisory Committee nor the Secretary-General would be convinced.

The Secretary-General indicated his willingness to try to reach a solution in further discussion with the Advisory Committee. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that, while some of his colleagues would consider it pointless to reopen the question of information activities in the Advisory Committee, they would be quite ready to examine the problem if the Fifth Committee so desired. The Committee, by 29 votes to 11 with 14 abstentions, adopted the Swedish proposal.

At its 366th meeting, the Committee had before it the twelfth report of the Advisory Committee (A/2259) which stated that while the Advisory Committee had received no evidence or additional data to warrant a change in its earlier position, it had taken under careful consideration an exchange of communications between its Chairman and the Secretary-General subsequent to the date of the latter's meeting with the Committee. In his communication the Secretary-General stated his conclusion that "in view of the general ceiling on the 1953 budget necessitating further economies in all fields", the restoration requested by him under the information sections of the budget should be \$57,500 instead of \$137,500. The Secretary-General further considered that, if authority were granted to him for the transfer of credits between these sections (section 13, 20 (chapter II), 21 and 26 (items relating to public information), he would be better able to concentrate expenditure on essential services.

The report further stated that the Advisory Committee would have been reluctant in present circumstances to recommend a solution at variance with that put forward by the Secretary-General, which appeared to accord generally with the intent of the resolution adopted by the Fifth Committee. But for these considerations, the Advisory Committee would not have found sufficient grounds on which to vary recommendations made after exhaustive study of the information services of the United Nations and of the Secretary-General's original budget proposals for 1953.

Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended the provisional restoration, in first reading of the 1953 estimates, of a global amount of \$57,500 in respect of sections 13, 21 and 26 (items relating to public information). This recommendation was made without prejudice to the over-all economies which the Secretary-General would propose under the terms of the United Kingdom proposal (A/C.5/L.184).

The Committee also had before it a draft of the proposals previously submitted (A/C.5/L.181). The delegation of Australia having withdrawn its proposal, the delegations of China and the Philippines took similar action in view of the understanding reached between the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee. The representative of Poland, however, wished to maintain the proposal which his delegation had made, since he felt that substantial savings could be effected on the publications programme and he was not convinced by the answers given to specific questions in this connexion.

At this stage there was some discussion of the procedure which had been followed in the Committee in requesting the Advisory Committee to re-examine the estimates. Further reference to this matter is included in paragraph 13-15 of this report.

The Committee rejected the Polish proposal by 43 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions; and then approved at first reading, by 43 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions, the joint recommendations of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee:

- (i) that appropriations for 1953 under Sections 13, 21 and 26 (Chapter I, items (vii) and (xi) and Chapter II, item (ii)) be approved in a total amount of \$3,864,250, this approval at the first reading being without prejudice to the over-all economies which the Secretary-General would propose under the terms of the United Kingdom proposal (A/C.5/L.184) as amended.
- (ii) that the Secretary-General be authorized to transfer funds at his own discretion between appropriations Sections 13, 20 (Chapter II) 21 and those items of Section 26 relating to public information.

On the second reading of the estimates at the 374th meeting, some delegations reserved their right to submit concrete proposals to the eighth session of the General Assembly regarding the level of the estimates for public information activities. The Committee confirmed estimates totalling \$2,755,000 for Section 13, \$862,300 for Section 21, and \$246,950 which was included in Section 26 - Publications. The details of these amounts were given by the Secretary-General as the appropriate distribution by section, of the global sum approved by the Committee at its 366th meeting.

#### Section 14 - Legal Department

At its 344th meeting, the Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation under this section of \$459,400.

Section 15 - Department of Conference and General Services

The estimates for the Department of Conference and General Services were considered by the Committee at its 346th and 352nd meetings. The discussion was devoted largely to three points: the Advisory Committee's recommendation in its first report (A/2157, paragraph 225) concerning the fleet of passenger and general utility vehicles of the Organization; a U.S.S.R. proposal to reduce the estimates for the section by an amount of \$94,800 below the figure recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/L.178); and the general question of documentation.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation on the vehicle fleet was to reduce it from ten passenger cars and two general utility vehicles to one passenger car and two station wagons. The Secretary-General considered that the dignity of the Organization required that its top officials be provided with adequate transportation facilities in the performance of their official duties and without ruling out the possibility of some reduction, he thought that the provision he had proposed was by no means excessive, bearing in mind the substantial reduction made since 1950. The Committee was given details of the particular uses made of the existing facilities and was assured that the valid system in force precluded abuse or misuse of those facilities.

Some members of the Committee expressed the opinion that the budget should provide only for the essential minimum transportation facilities for the proper functioning of the Organization and that the United Nations could not ignore the attitude of public opinion which reacted strongly on issues of that kind. In the light of its discussion and in consideration of the information it had received, the Committee agreed not to take action upon the question of budgetary provision until the Advisory Committee in consultation with the Secretary-General had re-examined the situation.

At its 352nd meeting, the Committee considered the revised recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in its seventh report (A/2244) that the car fleet of the Organization should comprise one car for the use of the President of the General Assembly, to be hired under contract for the duration of the session; four passenger cars including one for the Secretary-General's use; and two station wagons and that there should be a provision for additional cars under contractual hire to a maximum of \$3,000.



The Committee by 39 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions approved these recommendations which implied a restoration of 4 posts of chauffeur, at a cost of \$15,800 falling under Section 15, as well as certain consequential adjustments in the estimates for Sections 1, 18 and 19.

The delegation of the U.S.S.R. made a proposal (A/C.5/L.178) to reduce the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 15 by \$94,800. This reduction was sought to be achieved by the elimination of seven posts, which were detailed, thereby saving \$45,100 under the item established posts and by reductions of \$30,000 and \$19,700 in the amounts recommended for temporary assistance and overtime and night differential respectively. In support of his proposal the representative of the Soviet Union considered that if the recommendations in the Advisory Committee's first report as a whole were acted upon, then the number of staff requested for the department was excessive and did not justify an appropriation of the order of one fifth of the total budget. A suggestion to request the Advisory Committee to review and comment on these proposals did not receive support in the Committee and was withdrawn after the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that in previous years his Committee had been concerned at the alarming growth of the Department; the matter had been fully and frankly discussed with the representative of the Secretary-General, who had tackled the problem with determination and had already succeeded in reducing the number of staff in the Department as compared with former years. The Advisory Committee did not feel that what was an apparent long-term programme which necessitated, continuing review and improvement, could reasonably be done in one year without disrupting services which were working satisfactorily.

The representative of the Secretary-General explained that it was essential to retain all the posts recommended by the Advisory Committee. He also pointed out that the cost of temporary assistance in the department would necessarily show an increase in 1953 because the Buildings Management Service which had been a part of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services would once again be attached to the Department of Conference and General Services.

A number of members of the Committee expressed themselves against the U.S.S.R. proposal while others could not take a stand either for or against the proposal in the absence of comments on it from the Advisory Committee.

The U.S.S.R. proposal was rejected by 14 votes to 5, with 25 abstentions.

Particular attention was drawn in the Committee to the comments of the Advisory Committee on limiting the volume of documentation, in paragraphs 23 to 33 of its report (A/2157). The Committee endorsed these observations with the hope that the Secretary-General would carry out the suggestions insofar as they were within his control. It was recognized, however, that delegations had a very real responsibility to co-operate with the Secretary-General in a conscientious effort to reduce the volume of documents submitted to the Secretariat for publication.

The Committee also discussed a proposal by the delegation of China to increase the proposed appropriation for section 15 by \$50,000 to cover the recruitment of temporary translators to deal with the heavy backlog of Chinese translation. He pointed out that the Chinese delegation had been very reasonable so far and had agreed that certain documents which were no longer of any value should not be translated. Nevertheless, he wondered what would happen to the backlog particularly in view of the reduction of six posts in the Chinese translation section.

In response to a request the Secretary-General presented an estimate, which was circulated to the Committee (A/C.5/L.179), of the cost involved in clearing the backlog of translation which existed in Chinese, Russian and Spanish. It was stated that the backlog in Chinese could be cleared off in three years without additional expense. This matter was reverted to in the Committee during the discussion of the question of Spanish as a working language for the Economic and Social Council upon which the Committee reported to the General Assembly under item 62 of the agenda (A/2283).

The Chinese proposal was rejected by 15 votes to 8, with 17 abstentions and the Committee by 41 votes to 5 adopted at first reading the Advisory Committee's estimates totalling \$9,480,800 for section 15.

#### Section 16 - Administrative and Financial Services

The Committee examined the estimates for Administrative and Financial Services at its 348th meeting.

With particular reference to paragraphs 19 and 20 of the first report of the Advisory Committee (A/2157), it was explained that the Secretary-General was in complete agreement with the Advisory Committee on the importance of adequate administrative inspection and would arrange to cover the function of administrative

inspection within the Bureau of Finance through a re-assignment of staff within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

The increase in costs in administering the Joint Staff Pension Fund was considered in the light of the Advisory Committee's suggestion in paragraph 237 of its report. The Advisory Committee had suggested that General Assembly resolution 248 (III) might be amended so as to provide that the administrative expenses of the Fund would be charged to the Fund. In its report to the General Assembly on the Regulations of the Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/2345), the Committee recommends that this question be considered by the Joint Staff Pension Board during 1953.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed a reduction of \$74,000 in the estimates for this Section. He explained that the Advisory Committee in its second report of 1950 (A/1312) had suggested that a study be made of the possibility of further integration of the separate units among which the Department's functions were distributed; he considered that there was justification neither for a complex organization nor for increasing costs, since increased functions should be absorbed in the workload of existing staff.

The Committee rejected the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposal by 30 votes to 5, with 13 abstentions, and approved on first reading by 41 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, estimates as recommended by the Advisory Committee totalling \$1,604,900.

#### Section 17 - Common Staff Costs

The Committee considered the estimates for common staff costs at its 366th meeting. The Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of \$74,900 in the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. However, in the light of certain new factors and circumstances explained by the representative of the Secretary-General, particularly, the financial implications resulting from the increased number of terminations of staff, and losses in connexion with the existing lease of Parkway Village, which does not expire until 15 January 1953, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee stated that the Advisory Committee was prepared to concur in the estimate as submitted by the Secretary-General. It was noted, however, that the increased number of terminations would result in substantial savings in salary under other sections of the budget, pending recruitment of replacements.

Some delegations expressed their concern that the lease arrangements made regarding Parkway Village should be such as to make it possible to keep United Nations expenditures under this heading to a minimum.

The representative of the U.S.S.R. proposed a reduction of \$170,000 in the amount requested for Chapter I, Recruitment, Installation and Termination Costs. He considered that the Secretary-General had overstated the programme for staff replacement and that the basis of computing expenditures for travel and for removal of household goods was too high. Other delegations, while not in a position to support the proposal felt that some saving might be made and that the matter should be examined. It was pointed out that savings under this Section would not arise merely by reducing the amounts requested; they would only arise by changing the policy in regard to staff administration.

A number of representatives commented upon paragraph 243 of the Advisory Committee's report and agreed that the matter of applying the Headquarters cost of living adjustment to certain allowances as well as to base salary needed closer examination. The Secretary-General was requested to furnish before the second reading and through the Advisory Committee, additional information as to the actual practice being followed, together with estimates in which the cost of living adjustment would be calculated on the basis of gross salary only.

The representative of Canada suggested that a re-organization of the work programme of the United Nations might make it possible to reduce further expenditures under the items for commutation of annual leave. By scheduling two gaps of two weeks each in the annual calendar of meetings, during which no meetings would normally be scheduled, he considered that it would be possible for staff members, as well as members of the permanent delegations, to take the leave to which they were entitled. This arrangement would have the advantage of reducing unused leave payments on termination and would effect further savings by reducing the number of temporary staff required to replace staff members on leave.

The Committee rejected by 21 votes to 6, with 21 abstentions, the U.S.S.R. proposal to reduce the estimates by \$170,000, and approved by 43 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, on a provisional basis only, estimates for the Section totalling \$4,459,900.

In its report to the General Assembly, under item 41 of the Agenda, Supplementary Estimates for 1952, the Committee reported its views to the Assembly regarding a subsidy to the International School for 1952; at its 365th meeting,

when considering that item, it had requested the Secretary-General to provide further detailed information on the financial status and plan of the International School. At its 373rd meeting, the Committee examined this report (A/C.5/524 and Add.1), together with a draft resolution proposed by the delegation of the United Kingdom (A/C.5/L.222). The operative parts of this draft resolution would (a) recommend that a sum not exceeding \$3,000 be appropriated to be applied in individual cases and at the discretion of the Secretary-General, in the form of grants in aid of the tuition fees of children of members of the United Nations staff who attend the School and who are found to be in need of such assistance, and (b) recommend that in 1953 only, a further sum of \$4,000 be appropriated to meet the deficit in the school accounts.

It was the feeling of a number of delegations that the principle of a grant in aid to individual staff members was not a desirable one to adopt. Others considered that it was still less proper to benefit indirectly, through a subsidy to the School, members of delegations or personnel not connected with the United Nations. Some members considered that it was fit and proper for the United Nations to assist the School in the form of a subsidy, others while still of this opinion, considered that it was more appropriate for such assistance to be directed towards a specific purpose - e.g., the rental payments.

The Committee rejected the United Kingdom proposal by 13 votes to 8, with 10 abstentions; it also rejected by 15 votes to 13, with 10 abstentions a Uruguay proposal to provide \$10,000 in the 1953 budget for the purpose of granting financial assistance to the International School. It adopted, however, an Australian proposal, by 27 votes to none, with 13 abstentions that a sum not exceeding \$7,400 under Section 17, be applied in payment of rental of buildings occupied by the International School.

At its 374th meeting, the Committee examined the report of the Secretary-General on the application of the cost of living adjustment at Headquarters (A/C.5/527) together with the fortieth report of the Advisory Committee (A/2320).

The Committee decided by 27 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions not to take immediate action upon the particular question, but requested the Secretary-General to study the matter further in consultation with the specialized agencies giving full weight to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The Committee expected this inquiry to be completed at the earliest possible date.

Consequent upon the decisions recorded above and noting that the Secretary-General had estimated at \$53,700 for this section the proportionate share of the global sum it had approved in connexion with Spanish as a working language for

ECOSOC and its functional commissions, the Committee approved on second reading estimates totalling \$4,521,000 for Common Staff Costs.

### Section 18 - Common Services

The Committee examined the estimates for Common Services at its 347th and 352nd meetings.

The Committee endorsed the comments of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 23 to 33 of its first report dealing with the general question of documentation.

The representative of the Secretary-General stated that contracts for the operation and maintenance of telecommunication equipment due to expire at the end of 1952 were being investigated as the Advisory Committee had suggested.

The representative of the U.S.S.R. proposed a reduction of \$250,000 in the appropriation for this Section to be applied among different items at the Secretary-General's discretion. He considered that this particular appropriation, which was more than one million dollars above the amount actually spent in 1951 was too high and that it should be possible to effect economies going beyond the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee.

In this connexion, it was pointed out that paragraph 251 of the Advisory Committee report had indicated that reliable estimates could be based only on a full years' experience of actual working conditions in the Permanent Headquarters which experience would not be available until the end of 1953. On the understanding that a review would be made of requirements based on actual experience at the end of 1953, the Committee rejected the U.S.S.R. proposal by 36 votes to 5, with 1 abstention. The estimate of \$3,828,600 for the Section as recommended by the Advisory Committee was then approved unanimously.

Consequent upon its decision regarding the United Nations car fleet, the Committee at its 352nd meeting agreed to a reduction of \$4,000 in the above sum. A total estimate of \$3,824,600 for Common Services was subsequently approved on second reading.

### Section 19 - Permanent Equipment

The Committee examined the estimates for Permanent Equipment at its 347th and 352nd meetings. The Secretary-General asked that in addition to an appropriate sum for transportation equipment, a sum should be provided to complete the furniture replacement programme in the Permanent Headquarters estimated at \$47,000, since the original programme made no provision for new office furniture for the Technical Assistance Administration. The Advisory Committee has suggested that the requirements of the Technical Assistance Administration should be met for the most part by re-allocation of existing stocks.

In view of the substantial sums invested in equipment in the past, the delegation of the U.S.S.R. proposed a reduction of \$50,000, in the total estimates, to be distributed at the Secretary-General's discretion. The Committee, however, rejected that proposal by 35 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions, and approved at its 347th meeting, on a provisional basis, the estimate of \$200,200 recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Consequent upon its decision regarding the passenger cars for the organization, the Committee at its 352nd meeting agreed to an increase of \$7,350 in the above total and, subsequently, on second reading, approved a total estimate of \$207,550 for Permanent Equipment.

### Section 19a - Improvement to Premises

At its 347th meeting, the Committee approved the retention of this Section in the budget without monetary provision.

### Section 20 - United Nations Office at Geneva

At its 353rd meeting the Committee considered estimates for the United Nations Office at Geneva, including provisions for the Geneva Information Centre and the Economic Commission for Europe.

The Committee agreed that supplementary estimates in connexion with the Economic and Social Council's decision to hold its sixteenth session and the ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva, and the decision

to give full implementation to rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe should be considered later in conjunction with similar supplementary estimates for other sections of the budget.

The representative of the U.S.S.R. stated that the estimates for the section were too high. He quoted comparative figures of the conference workload for previous years, and on the assumption of a reduced programme of visiting conferences in 1953, made two proposals:

(1) that the estimates for Chapter I, General Services, be further reduced by a sum of \$100,000 composed of a reduction of \$70,000 in the item established posts and a reduction of \$30,000 in the item temporary assistance;

(2) that the Fifth Committee request the Advisory Committee to make a comprehensive study of the work of the United Nations Office at Geneva with a view to submitting to the eighth session of the General Assembly practical recommendations for the efficient and economical use of that office's staff and premises.

The representative of the Secretary-General stated a reduction such as that proposed would undoubtedly impair the efficiency of the Office. It was also pointed out, that the Advisory Committee had already recommended a reduction of \$7,000 in the Secretary-General's original estimate of \$60,000 for temporary assistance; a further reduction of \$30,000 in this item would leave little scope for adjustment to variations in the workload.

Some members of the Committee felt unable to vote for the proposal in the absence of further information as to its effect on the operation of the Geneva office. A separate vote was taken on each of the two reductions proposed. The first reduction of \$70,000 was rejected by 5 votes to 22, with 16 abstentions and the second \$30,000, was rejected by 7 votes to 11, with 25 abstentions. The Committee then approved by 38 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, estimates totalling \$2,056,810 for Chapter I - General Services, as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

The Chairman of the Advisory Committee, referring to the second proposal by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that his Committee would be glad to make such a study of the Geneva Office. He



proposed, however, to add at the end of the paragraph the phrase "in the light of any decision which the General Assembly may take on the basic pattern of conferences at Headquarters and Geneva". The Committee accepted this amendment.

The second proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as amended was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The estimates for Chapter II - Information Centre (Geneva) totalling \$93,090 as recommended by the Advisory Committee were approved unanimously.

The estimates for Chapter III - Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body totalling \$47,100 as recommended by the Advisory Committee were approved unanimously.

As regards the estimates for Chapter III the Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body, the Advisory Committee has recommended the deletion of the provision (\$9,000) for a possible Deputy Secretary's post on the understanding that, if the necessity for the post should arise, funds would be made available by transfer. The Committee agreed that its approval of the estimates for Chapter III of Section 20 would be subject to this understanding and to the provision that the Chairman of the Board should be heard later should he so desire.

The estimates for Chapter IV - Economic Commission for Europe, totalling \$997,500 as recommended by the Advisory Committee were approved unanimously.

The Committee rejected, by 28 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions, a proposal of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to reduce the estimates for Chapter V - Common Staff Costs, by an amount of \$71,000 which was included in the total in respect of the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and approved, by 39 votes to 5, estimates totalling \$613,800 for the Chapter as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Estimates for Chapter VI - Common Services, totalling \$395,500 as recommended by the Advisory Committee, were approved by 41 votes to 5.

Estimates for Chapter VII - Permanent Equipment, totalling \$103,000, as recommended by the Advisory Committee were approved by 43 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The Committee approved, at its 353rd meeting, by 41 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, estimates totalling \$4,306,800 for Section 20 as a whole, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, subject to later adjustment in the light of decisions reached on various supplementary items.

At its 356th and 365th meetings, the Committee approved supplementary estimates for Section 20 as recommended by the Advisory Committee in the following amounts: \$126,800 consequent upon its review of the financial implications of the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council (paragraph 26); \$14,600 for a meeting in Geneva of the International Law Commission; and \$12,500 in respect of the International Bureau for Declarations of Death. The Committee, at its 365th meeting asked that the Advisory Committee should carefully re-examine during 1953 the question of charging fees for the issue of certificates of death.

A proportionate share of the global sum approved to provide for Spanish as a working language, estimated by the Secretary-General at \$9,700, was included with the above items, giving a total estimate for the Section of \$4,470,400, which was confirmed at the second reading by 37 votes to 5.

#### Section 20a - Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees

The Fifth Committee considered the estimates for this Section at its 365th meeting on the basis of the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its first report (A/2157). Discussion was directed in the first place to the definition of the terms "administrative expenses" and "operational expenses" with particular reference to paragraph 20 of the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. In accordance with the request of the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee had examined this question and presented its conclusions in paragraphs 361 - 367 of its first report.

In discussing the suggestions made by the Advisory Committee with reference to the difference of "operational" and "administrative" expenses, the Committee took into account the statement made by the High Commissioner for Refugees that, whereas the precise definition of the two terms still required further study, the suggestions of the Advisory Committee offered a reasonable basis for determining what should be charged to the United Nations budget and what should not. Moreover, the High Commissioner pointed out that, when the Advisory Committee suggests in paragraph 366 (a) that expenses in connexion with the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund are operational, he took it

for granted that this meant that any extra expenses in connexion with the management of the assistance fund could not be charged to the United Nations budget.

Discussion of the funds to be provided under this Section of the budget for 1953 was introduced with a statement by the High Commissioner, who expressed his inability to concur in the proposed reduction of \$23,900 in the appropriations he had requested. While recognizing that the 1952 appropriations had not been fully spent, he informed the Committee that the situation in terms of the 1953 budget was essentially different in that requirements could be more accurately estimated and had in fact been prepared with the utmost strictness. He stressed the magnitude of the task that confronted his Office and urged that the Committee should approve the estimates as originally presented.

Several delegations, while expressing the fullest sympathy with and support for the humanitarian work in which the High Commissioner was engaged, felt that the acceptance of the relatively modest reduction recommended need not interfere unduly with the essential work to be performed.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, supported by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, moved that no budgetary appropriations should be made under this Section on the grounds that the functions of the Office which he maintained had been illegally established, were incompatible with the provisions of the Charter, and with the resolution of the General Assembly requesting the early return of all refugees to their countries of origin.

The representative of the Netherlands recognizing that even a relatively small reduction could be difficult to absorb in a nicely calculated budget, suggested that the High Commissioner should endeavour to carry out his task within the appropriation recommended on the understanding that the Advisory Committee would give all possible consideration to any request made to it during the year for a transfer of funds should circumstances make this necessary.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposal having been rejected by 41 votes to 5, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$650,000 was then approved by 43 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

It was understood that the High Commissioner would have the full discretion as to the manner in which the \$23,900 reduction should be applied. The High Commissioner was also assured by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that should it not be possible to manage within the appropriation voted, the Advisory Committee would be prepared to examine the position.

#### Section 24 - Hospitality

At its 351st meeting, the Committee approved the estimate of \$20,000 as submitted by the Secretary-General and concurred in by the Advisory Committee.

#### Sections 25 and 26 - Official Records and Publications

At its 351st meeting, the Committee considered the estimates for the contractual printing of official records and other publications on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommended appropriations of \$750,000 for the former and \$568,250 for the latter, exclusive of requirements for publications of the Department of Public Information. There was general agreement that the printing of United Nations publications should be so controlled as to ensure that the necessarily limited resources of the Organization are devoted to those publications of most direct and effective use to its approved programmes.

Attention was called by a number of delegations to the fact that it was becoming increasingly difficult for the representatives of Governments and others concerned to cope adequately with the growing volume of United Nations documentation, in addition to which, resulting increased expenditures for printing and for other internal administrative costs had to be considered. Some members considered that the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee did not go far enough and that it would have been more in keeping with General Assembly Resolution 593 (VI) if costs under this heading could have shown a larger decrease. In this connexion, the ~~value~~ <sup>weight</sup> of the observations and suggestions made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 28 and 29 of its report (A/2157), was particularly emphasized and both the Secretary-General and the representatives of Member Governments were urged to be guided accordingly.

In reply to specific questions, the Committee was assured that the Publications Board examined requests for publications from Departments with complete impartiality and while it would be difficult to determine in advance precisely which publications would be affected by the proposed reductions, these reductions would not be applied to publications in any given language, but would be distributed fairly over the whole programme.

It was further explained that the Publications Board had consistently endeavoured to reduce to a minimum the volume of United Nations publications and had, in fact, been applying as a working rule for several years past, the guiding principles of General Assembly Resolution 593 (VI). The possibility of curtailing official records was necessarily limited, but the Publications Board had done its best to take effective steps in that regard.

The view was also expressed that little useful purpose would be served by appropriating a considerable sum for printing the backlog of official records. It was suggested also that economies could be achieved by improving the quality of publications as well as by reducing their volume. Some disappointment was noted that the estimated income from sale of publications in 1953 was \$25,000 less than in 1952, indicating that revenue from sales was not yielding the return which could be reasonably expected.

The Committee rejected, by 28 votes to 6, with 14 abstentions, a proposal of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to reduce the estimates for Section 25 by \$25,000 and by 36 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions, a further proposal from the same delegation to reduce the estimates for Section 26 by \$75,000.

At its 351st meeting, the Committee approved, by 49 votes to none, with 1 abstention, the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee of \$75,000 for Section 25 and also approved unanimously the Advisory Committee's estimates of \$568,250 for Section 26.

At its 366th meeting, the Committee approved a global estimate for information services including a provision of \$246,950 for Department of Public Information publications, resulting in estimates for Section 26 totalling \$815,200.

Section 30 - Transfer of the Assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations

The Committee considered Section 30 at its 351st meeting and approved an appropriation of \$649,500, representing the third of fifteen equal annual instalments payable in accordance with paragraph 1(c) of General Assembly resolution 250(III) of 11 December 1948.

Section 31 - Amortization of Headquarters Construction Loan

At its 351st meeting, the Committee approved an appropriation of \$1,500,000 for amortization of the headquarters construction loan of \$65,000,000 advanced by the Government of the United States of America.

Section 31a - Headquarters Construction Costs

Following the Committee's decision, at its 367th meeting, provisionally to include a sum of \$1,000,000, under this Section on first reading the situation was further reviewed at the 374th meeting in the light of the Report of the Working Group on the date of payment of Contributions (A/C.5/539) and anticipated 1953 demands on the Working Capital Fund, with the result that the Committee's provisional decision was confirmed by 32 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

Section 32 - The International Court of Justice

After a statement by the Deputy Registrar of the International Court of Justice to the effect that the Court accepted the reduction of \$10,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Committee at its 351st meeting approved an appropriation, under this Section, in the amount of \$630,800.

MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

The Advisory Committee had recommended estimates for miscellaneous income in the sum of \$6,142,500. As a result of actions taken during the Committee's detailed reading of the budget, the representative of the Secretary-General advised the Committee that this sum could be increased to \$6,238,200.

It was pointed out that considerable care in the administration of the activities which were revenue producing should be exercised so that the income derived should be increased wherever possible and the estimates for such income should reflect a continuing improvement in the administrative management of such activities.

In that particular connexion, the representative of the U.S.S.R. proposed that the estimates submitted should be increased by \$500,000. The Committee rejected this proposal by 32 votes to 5, with no abstentions and approved the estimate of miscellaneous income for the financial year 1953 in an amount of \$6,238,200 which sum would be applied against the reduction of members contributions.

SECOND READING OF THE 1953 ESTIMATES

At its 374th meeting, the Committee undertook a second reading of the estimates on the basis of the summary of the budget situation prepared by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/538) in the course of which it approved appropriations for each Section in the amounts and by the votes specified hereunder:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Section 1 - \$603,400	39	0	0
Section 2 - No appropriation	No objection		
Section 3 - \$263,200			
(i) - \$1,750	20	9	7
(ii) - \$263,200	37	0	3
(a) \$20,000	39	0	0
(b) \$96,000	40	0	0
Section 4 - \$59,900	40	0	0
Section 5 - \$2,140,700	35	5	0
(i) - USSR proposal to delete credits for all items	5	30	3
(ii) - \$2,140,700	35	5	0
(a) \$546,000	35	5	0
Section 6 - \$458,600	40	0	0
(a) \$475,000	40	0	0
Section 7 - \$769,200	40	0	0
Section 8 - \$137,000	39	0	2
Section 9 - \$386,700	40	0	0
Section 10 - \$2,304,000			
(i) - USSR proposal for reduction of \$400,000	5	31	4
(ii) - Total appropriation of \$2,304,000	35	5	0
Section 11 - \$1,749,500			
(i) - USSR proposal for reduction of \$300,000	5	32	4
(ii) - Total appropriation of \$1,749,500	36	5	0



	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Section 12 - \$950,000	39	0	0
Section 13 - \$2,755,000	31	6	3
Section 14 - \$459,400	42	0	0
Section 15 - \$9,721,600	36	6	0
Section 16 - \$1,604,900	37	5	0
Section 17 - \$4,521,000	36	5	1
Section 18 - \$3,831,600	36	5	0
Section 19 - \$247,550	35	5	1
(a) Improvements to premises: no appropriation		No objection	
Section 20 - \$4,423,300	37	5	0
Chap. III - \$47,100	39	0	0
(a) Office of U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees \$650,000	36	5	1
Section 21 - \$862,300	33	5	3
Section 22 - \$1,030,000	42	0	0
Section 23 - \$866,000	42	0	0
Section 24 - \$20,000	40	0	0
Section 25 - \$752,220	35	5	0
Chap. VI - \$11,780		No objection	
Section 26 - \$815,200	35	5	1
Section 27 - \$768,500	41	0	0
Section 28 - \$479,400	41	0	0
Section 29 - \$145,000	41	0	0
Section 30 \$649,500		No objection	
Section 31 - \$1,500,000		No objection	
(a) - Headquarters construction costs: \$1,000,000	32	5	2
Section 32 - \$630,800	37	0	0
Section 33 - \$423,850	39	0	1

At its 374th meeting, the Committee also considered draft resolutions as recommended by the Advisory Committee, subject to amendments and additions agreed to in the course of the Fifth Committee's deliberations covering, for the financial year 1953:

- (a) budget appropriations,
- (b) unforeseen and extraordinary expenses,
- (c) Working Capital Fund.

The draft appropriation resolution (A/C.5/L.226) providing for a total budget for 1953 of \$48,327,700 gross, was approved by 37 votes to 6, with no abstentions. The draft resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses (A/C.5/L.224) was next approved by 33 votes to 5, with one abstention, and the draft resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund (A/C.5/L.227) was approved by 35 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

In consequence of the foregoing decisions, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolutions:

Draft ResolutionsA  
Budget appropriations for the financial year 1953.

The General Assembly  
 Resolves that for the financial year 1953:

1. Appropriations totalling \$U.S.48,327,700 are hereby voted for the following purposes:

	Dollars (U.S.)	
A. UNITED NATIONS		
<u>Part I - Sessions of the General Assembly, the Councils, Commissions and Committees</u>		
Section		
1. The General Assembly, Commissions and Committees	603,400	
2. The Security Council, Commissions and Committees	--	--
3. The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees	263,200	
(a) Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body	20,000	
(b) Regional Economic Commissions	<u>96,000</u>	379,200
4. The Trusteeship Council, Commissions and Committees		<u>59,900</u>
TOTAL, PART I		1,042,500

Part II - Investigations and Enquiries

Section

5. Investigations and Enquiries	2,140,700	
(a) United Nations Field Service	<u>546,200</u>	
TOTAL, PART II		2,686,900

Part III - Headquarters, New York

## Section

6. Executive Office of the Secretary-General	458,600	
(a) Library	<u>475,000</u>	933,600
7. Department of Political and Security Council Affairs		769,200
8. Military Staff Committee Secretariat		137,000
9. Technical Assistance Administration		386,700
10. Department of Economic Affairs		2,304,000
11. Department of Social Affairs		1,749,500
12. Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories		950,000
13. Department of Public Information		2,755,000
14. Department of Legal Affairs		459,400
15. Conference and General Services		9,721,600
16. Administrative and Financial Services		1,604,900
17. Common Staff Costs		4,521,000
18. Common Services		3,831,600
19. Permanent Equipment		247,550
(a) Improvements to premises		<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL, PART III</b>		<b>30,371,050</b>

Part IV - United Nations Office at Geneva

Section

20. United Nations Office at Geneva (excluding direct costs, Chap. III, Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body).	4,423,300	
Chap. III, Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body	<u>47,100</u>	
	4,470,400	
(a) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	<u>650,000</u>	<u>5,120,400</u>
TOTAL, PART IV		5,120,400

Part V - Information Centres

21. Information Centres (other than Information Services, United Nations Office at Geneva)	<u>862,300</u>	
TOTAL, PART V		862,300

Part VI - Regional Economic Commissions  
(other than the Economic Com-  
mission for Europe)

22. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East	1,030,000	
23. Economic Commission for Latin America	<u>866,000</u>	
TOTAL, PART VI		1,896,000

Part VII - Hospitality

Section

24. Hospitality		<u>20,000</u>	
TOTAL, PART VII			20,000

Part VIII - Contractural Printing

25. Official Records (excluding Chapter VI, and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body)	752,220		
Chapter VI, Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body	<u>11,780</u>	764,000	
26. Publications		<u>815,200</u>	
TOTAL, PART VIII			1,579,200

Part IX - Technical Programmes

27. Advisory Social Welfare Functions		768,500	
28. Technical Assistance for Economic Development		479,400	
29. Programme for training in Public Administration		<u>145,000</u>	
TOTAL, PART IX			1,392,900

Part X - Special Expenses

Section

30.	Transfer of the assets of the League of Nations to the United Nations		649,500	
31.	Amortization of the Headquarters Construction Loan	1,500,000		
	(a) Headquarters Construction costs	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>2,500,000</u>	
	TOTAL, PART X			3,149,500
B.	<u>Part XI - THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE</u>			
32.	The International Court of Justice		<u>630,800</u>	
	TOTAL, PART XI			<u>630,800</u>
C.	<u>Part XII - SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS</u>			
33.	Global reduction to be achieved on various sections of the budget		<u>(423,850)</u>	<u>(423,850)</u>
	GRAND TOTAL			<u><u>48,327,700</u></u>

2. The appropriations voted by paragraph 1 above shall be financed by contributions from Members after adjustment as provided by the Financial Regulations, subject to the provision of paragraph 1 of the resolution relating to the Working Capital Fund. For this purpose, miscellaneous income for the financial year 1953 is estimated at \$US 6,238,200.

3. The Secretary-General is authorized:

(i) To administer as a Unit the following appropriations:

(a) provisions under Section 3a, Section 20, Chapter III, and Section 25, Chapter VI.

(b) provisions under Section 13, Section 20, Chapter II, Section 21 and in respect of Section 26 for items relating to public information.

(c) provisions under the various sections in Part III for travel on official business.

(ii) To apply the reduction under Section 33 to various sections of the budget.

(iii) With the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to transfer credits between sections of the budget.

4. The Secretary-General is further authorized to enter into such arrangements with the competent authorities of the Republic and Canton of Geneva in connexion with the exchange of the property called "le Chene" owned by the United Nations for the property called "le Bocage" owned by the Republic and Canton of Geneva as he may see fit under the provisions set forth in Document A/C.5/510.

5. In addition to the appropriations voted by paragraph I, an amount of \$US 13,000 is hereby appropriated for the purchase of books, periodicals, maps and library equipment, from the income of the Library Endowment Fund, in accordance with the object and provisions of the endowment.



Draft Resolution B

Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses for the financial year 1953

The General Assembly

Resolves that, for the financial year 1953,

The Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, is authorized to enter into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for:

- (a) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$US 2,000,000 if the Secretary-General certifies that they relate to the maintenance of peace and security or to urgent economic rehabilitation;
- (b) Such commitments not exceeding a total of \$US 25,000 as are occasioned by the holding of an inter-governmental commodity conference;
- (c) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of \$US 50,000 as are required for the United Nations Good Offices Commission on the treatment of people of Indian Origin in the Union of South Africa;
- (d) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of \$US 50,000 as are required for the Commission on the question of race conflict in South Africa resulting from the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa;
- (e) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of \$US 129,000 as are required for the purchase of Korean Service Medals and Ribbons;
- (f) Such commitments, duly certified by the President of the International Court of Justice, relating to expenses occasioned:
  - (i) By the designation of ad hoc judges (Statute, Article 31),
  - (ii) By the appointment of assessors (Statute, Article 30) or of witnesses and experts (Statute, Article 50),
  - (iii) By the holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (Statute, Article 22),

and not exceeding \$24,000, \$25,000, and \$75,000 respectively under each of the above three headings;

The Secretary-General shall report to the Advisory Committee and to the General Assembly at its next regular session all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the General Assembly in

Draft Resolution C  
Working Capital Fund

The General Assembly,

Resolves that:

1. The Working Capital Fund is established for the financial year 1953 at the amount of \$US 21,500,000 to be derived:
  - (a) As to \$20,000,000 from cash advances by Members in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present resolution;
  - (b) As to \$1,239,203, being a transfer of the balance of surplus account as at 31 December 1950, not already applied against Members' assessments for 1951, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 585 A (VI);
  - (c) As to \$260,797 by transfer of part of the balance of surplus account as at 31 December 1951 not already applied against Members' assessments for 1952;
2. Members shall make cash advances to the Working Capital Fund as required under paragraph 1(a) above in accordance with the scale adopted by the General Assembly for contributions of Members to the eighth annual budget.
3. There shall be set off against this new allocation of advances the amounts paid by Members to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1952, under General Assembly resolution 585 A (VI), paragraph 2, provided that, should such advance paid by any Member to the Working Capital Fund for the financial year 1952 exceed the amount of that Member's advance under the provision of paragraph 2 hereof, the excess shall be set off against the amount of contributions payable by that Member in respect of the eighth annual budget or any previous budget.
4. The Secretary-General is authorized to advance from the Working Capital Fund:
  - (a) Such sums as may be necessary to finance budgetary appropriations pending receipt of contributions; sums so advanced shall be reimbursed as soon as receipts from contributions are available for the purpose;
  - (b) Such sums as may be necessary to finance commitments which may be duly authorized under the provisions of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates for reimbursing the Working Capital Fund;
  - (c) Such sums as, together with net sums outstanding for the same purposes, do not exceed \$250,000 to continue the revolving fund to finance miscellaneous self-liquidating purchases and activities. Advances in excess of the total of \$250,000 may be made with the prior concurrence

of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General shall submit, with the annual accounts, an explanation of the outstanding balance of the revolving fund at the end of each year;

(d) Loans to specialized agencies and preparatory commissions of agencies to be established by inter-governmental agreement under the auspices of the United Nations to finance their work, pending receipt by the agencies concerned of sufficient contributions under their own budgets. In making such loans, which shall normally be repayable within two years, the Secretary-General shall have regard to the proposed financial resources of the agency concerned, and shall obtain the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for any cash issues which would increase the aggregate balance outstanding (including amounts previously advanced and outstanding) at any one time to an amount in excess of \$3,000,000 and for any issue which would increase the balance outstanding (including amounts previously advanced and outstanding) in respect of any one agency to an amount in excess of \$1,000,000, provided that, notwithstanding the above provisions, the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization shall be authorized to postpone until 31 December 1953 repayment of the outstanding balance of the loans made to the Interim Commission;

(e) Such sums as, together with the sums previously advanced and outstanding for the same purpose, do not exceed \$420,000 to continue the Staff Housing Fund in order to finance rental payments, guarantee deposits and working capital requirements for housing the staff of the Secretariat. Such advances shall be reimbursed to the Working Capital Fund following the recovery of rental advances, guarantee deposits and working capital advances;

(f) Such sums not exceeding \$90,000 as may be required to finance payments of advance insurance premiums and deposits where the period of insurance extends beyond the end of the financial year in which payment is made. This amount may be increased with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Secretary-General shall make provision in the budget estimates of each

year during the life of the related policies to cover the charges applicable to each such year;

(g) Such sums not exceeding \$1,000,000 as may be necessary to complete the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations.

Draft Resolution D

Payment of honoraria to rapporteurs of United Nations bodies

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the appointment of a person as rapporteur of a United Nations body confers honour upon his country and distinction upon himself,

1. Considers that no such appointment should carry remuneration;
2. Requests all organs of the United Nations to bear in mind in future the views of the General Assembly as expressed in the present resolution.

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