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**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 526th
MEETING**

**Thursday, 8 December 1955,
at 10.50 a.m.**

New York

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Chairman: Mr. Hans ENGEN (Norway).

AGENDA ITEM 38

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1956
(A/2904 and Add.1. A/2921, A/C.5/629)
(*continued*)**

First reading (*continued*)

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST (A/3075, A/C.5/646) (*con-
tinued*)**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, as a result of the discussion at the preceding meeting, there were now two proposals before the Committee. First, Egypt had proposed the addition of four professional staff members to the Middle East unit of the Bureau of Economic Affairs, at a cost of about \$24,000. The second proposal, submitted by the Iraqi representative, was that the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for economic studies in the Middle East (A/3075) should be raised from \$15,000 to \$25,000. At the last meeting the United Kingdom representative had suggested that before coming to a decision on the Egyptian proposal the Fifth Committee ought perhaps to ask the opinion of the Advisory Committee.

2. Mr. ANIS (Egypt) agreed that his proposal should be studied by the Advisory Committee before being considered by the Fifth Committee.

3. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) stated that the actual effect of the Egyptian proposal would be to alter the structure of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. As the Committee had decided at the 524th meeting to defer that question to the eleventh session, it would first have to reverse itself if it wanted to take a decision on the Egyptian proposal.

4. In reply to a question from Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom), Mr. ANIS (Egypt) said that while his delegation was requesting the appointment of four additional professional staff members it did not mean to make any suggestions as to their nationality; that was entirely a matter for the Secretary-General's discretion.

5. After an exchange of views in which Mr. FRIIS (Denmark), Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) and the CHAIRMAN took part, Mr. ANIS (Egypt) said that he was quite willing to submit his proposal in writing so that the Fifth Committee could examine it before deciding whether to refer it to the Advisory Committee.

6. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should meanwhile consider the Iraqi proposal on economic studies in the Middle East.

7. Mr. MERROW (United States of America) said that in view of the fact that the Egyptian proposal was to be referred to the Advisory Committee, his delegation, while it had supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation at the previous meeting, would now agree to the funds for studies in the Middle East being raised to \$20,000. He therefore proposed that the Advisory Committee's recommendation should be amended accordingly.

8. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) supported the United States proposal, which in his opinion was a fair compromise.

9. Mr. MAHDAVI (Iran) felt that an increase of \$5,000 in the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee was inadequate.

10. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq) said he would not oppose the United States proposal if the representative of the Secretary-General considered that an appropriation of \$20,000 would enable the proposed mission to carry out its work satisfactorily. If not, his delegation would press its original proposal.

11. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) emphasized that the Committee was not now concerned with determining the economic needs of the Middle East. What it had to decide was something entirely different, namely, how much aid to give to the Secretary-General in order to enable him to improve the quality of his Economic Report on the Middle East.

12. He therefore wanted an answer to a precise question, namely, how many officers could be sent to the Middle East and for what periods of time, if the Advisory Committee's figure was adopted instead of the Secretary-General's estimate (A/C.5/646).

13. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Arab countries had put a convincing case; he would support an appropriation of \$25,000.

14. Mr. ERHAN (Turkey) said that his delegation supported the proposal to increase the size of the Middle East unit and to send a study mission to that area. The mission would provide the Secretariat with information on the countries of an important area which was developing apace. He would therefore support the Iraqi and Egyptian proposals.

15. Mr. AGEDE (Ethiopia) said that generally speaking his delegation preferred the Iraqi proposal. He asked the representative of the Secretary-General to indicate which countries would be covered by the Secretariat's study programme.

16. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) regretted that he could support neither the Iraqi nor the United States proposal. The question before the Committee was not the needs of the area — a matter on which he did not propose to express an opinion at the present stage and

which would be further considered in 1956 in connexion with the reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs — but what additional appropriation was necessary to finance such interim and exploratory activities as could be undertaken in the meantime. For that purpose, he considered the amount recommended by the Advisory Committee adequate.

17. Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) said that he would vote for the United States proposal if the representative of the Secretary-General could give an assurance that an appropriation of \$20,000 would be sufficient to enable the steps described in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/646) to be carried out. If not, India would support the Iraqi proposal. At the last meeting the United States representative had pointed out that the study mission would be able to receive assistance from United Nations offices in the area in the matter of local transportation and secretariat work, and that therefore it was unnecessary to make an appropriation of \$25,000. It would be interesting to hear the views of the Secretary-General's representative on that point.

18. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Secretary-General had allowed for the possibility suggested by the United States representative in preparing his estimates. If the sum available was to be only \$20,000, the Secretary-General would obviously have to revise his plans in respect of both the number of staff members sent on mission and the length of their stay; and the study would be less comprehensive.

19. In reply to the Ethiopian representative, he said that the question of economic surveys of African countries was still under consideration, and that for budgetary reasons the Secretary-General had not included Ethiopia among the countries to be covered by the study on the Middle East.

20. Mr. SIAL (Pakistan) thought that the remarks of the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had made it clear that a sum of \$25,000 would be necessary. He would therefore vote for the Iraqi proposal.

21. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said he agreed with the Australian representative. The measure in question was purely transitional, and a sum of \$15,000 should suffice. When the Committee discussed the reorganization of the Department, at the eleventh session, it would perhaps be able to consider earmarking larger funds for such activities. He noted that the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had not given a precise answer to the question asked by the Israel representative.

22. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) replied that the Secretary-General's intention had been to send six officers chosen from the staff of the Middle East Unit and other services of the Bureau of Economic Affairs. Four of them would stay in the area for about six months. The two others would stay only two or three months, and would study special problems. If no more than \$15,000 was appropriated, other arrangements would have to be made: for example, the number of officers sent or the duration of their stay might have to be reduced by one-third. Their terms of reference would remain unchanged.

The Iraqi proposal to increase the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/3075, para. 6) by \$10,000 was adopted by 26 votes to 3, with 12 abstentions.

An appropriation of \$25,000 for economic studies in the Middle East was approved by 32 votes to none, with 9 abstentions, on first reading.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL MISSIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES; SECTION 5A. UNITED NATIONS FIELD SERVICE (A/3069, A/C.5/644, A/C.5/648)

23. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation had pointed out during the general discussion (500th meeting) that some appropriations were not used in the interest of the majority of the Member States. Accordingly, his delegation proposed that no appropriation should be made under section 5, as the special missions concerned had been set up in defiance of the Charter. On the same grounds, it proposed that no appropriation should be made under section 5a.

24. Mr. TYLNER (Czechoslovakia) said that as his delegation had often pointed out, the creation of the United Nations Field Service was a flagrant breach of the Charter. Under the Charter no organ except the Security Council had the right to create a military force of any kind acting on behalf of the United Nations. His delegation therefore supported the Soviet proposal.

25. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that he would vote for the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General in his revised estimates (A/C.5/644, A/C.5/648) and approved by the Advisory Committee (A/3069). It would be noted that the Advisory Committee had recommended in paragraph 4 of its report that arrangements should be made to send a high-ranking Secretariat official at regular intervals to inspect the special missions. He asked what was actually being done in the matter.

26. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation. He had always thought that considerable savings could be made under sections 5 and 5a by reducing certain activities. He therefore noted with satisfaction that the Advisory Committee had recommended regular inspections, and he expressed the hope that the Secretariat would act on that recommendation.

27. Mr. TURNER (Controller) pointed out that arrangements for the inspection of the various missions had existed in the Secretariat for some time past. At the beginning of 1953 the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Finance had inspected all special missions. In 1954, the Chief of the Budget Division had travelled to the Middle East for the same purpose. In 1955, the Chief of the Field Service was to have made another inspection, but as no funds had been available to cover his travel expenses, the visit had had to be cancelled.

28. The Secretary-General fully endorsed the Advisory Committee's observation on the inspection of missions. Experience had shown that such inspections could bring about significant savings. However, they involved considerable travel expenses, and it was to be feared that in 1956 as in 1955 the appropriation for official travel would prove insufficient to enable all priority trips to be undertaken.

29. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) said he was glad that the Secretary-General agreed with the Advisory Committee's observation, but found it disappointing that the inspections proposed for 1955 had not been given the priority in the allocation of travel funds necessary to enable the inspection to be carried out except on a limited scale. He expressed the hope

that a more suitable priority for that important work would be given in 1956.

30. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that he had unofficially asked the Director of General Services a number of questions. The Secretary-General was asking \$117,000 for the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine (A/C.5/644, para. 2), an item for which the 1955 appropriation had been only \$52,100. Thus an increase by \$64,900 was contemplated. He wondered whether that increase was justified. Accordingly, he asked the representative of the Secretary-General what progress had been made in the inquiry into Arab property, which had been initiated in 1952.

31. Mr. VAUGHAN (Director of General Services) replied that so far work had been done on ten per cent of the property. However, the Conciliation Commission had decided to speed up the inquiry. The Secretariat had engaged an expert, who had made a preliminary study. He had reached the conclusion that twenty to twenty-eight officers would be needed to complete the inquiry in eighteen months.

32. Mr. Vaughan assured the Syrian representative that he would be given a definite answer to the various questions he had asked unofficially.

33. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) stated that he could understand the doubts expressed by the Secretary-General's representative as to whether the questions of the Syrian delegate were appropriate for consideration by the Fifth Committee. His delegation wanted to make it clear that if a full-scale discussion was desired it would be prepared to participate in it. On the other hand, he wanted to make it equally clear that, so far as the Fifth Committee was concerned, the only figures before it were those appearing in the budget estimates (A/2904). His delegation would vote on those alone and wished to put on record its reservations on any other figures that had been mentioned during the debate.

34. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR proposal to make no appropriation under section 5 of the 1956 budget.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 35 votes to 4.

35. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendations on Section 5 (A/3069, para. 3).

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$145,000 for the United Nations Advisory Council for Somaliland under Italian Administration was approved on first reading by 37 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$436,800 for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan was approved on first reading by 38 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$29,250 for the United Nations representative in India and Pakistan was approved on first reading by 39 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$117,000 for the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was approved on first reading by 39 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$745,500 for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine was approved on first reading by 40 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$5,000 for the repatriation of Greek children was approved on first reading by 40 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$249,000 for Korean Service Medals was approved on first reading by 37 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$126,900 for the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea was approved on first reading by 35 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$1,856,450 under section 5 was approved on first reading by 36 votes to 4.

36. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR proposal to make no appropriation under section 5a.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 37 votes to 4.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$584,600, under section 5a (A/3069, para. 3) was approved on first reading by 38 votes to 4.

SECTION 6A. OFFICE OF UNDER-SECRETARIES WITHOUT DEPARTMENT

37. Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) drew attention to the Advisory Committee's statement (A/2921, para. 70) that the Secretary-General hoped to attract to the Office of Under-Secretaries experienced members of national services who might welcome an appointment limited to two or three years. His delegation entirely supported that policy.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$111,800 under section 6a (A/2921, para. 71) was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 15. COMMON STAFF COSTS

Special Internes (A/3067, A/C.5/641)

38. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) pointed out that the Secretary-General had proposed an increase in stipends paid to internes and the payment of their installation expenses (A/C.5/641, para. 7). He would like to know whether internes who were already in New York would benefit by those provisions.

39. Mr. ROBERTSON (Director of Personnel) said that the new provisions would take effect from 1 January 1956 and would apply to present as well as new internes.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation of an appropriation of \$69,500 for special internes under section 15, chapter IV, (A/3067, para. 7) was approved on first reading by 35 votes to 4.

Grant to the International School (A/C.5/645)

40. Mr. GREZ (Chile) said that staff welfare had always been a matter of concern to the Chilean delegation. Once again it wished to stress the human side of the problem of the International School.

41. At the time when Headquarters had been at Lake Success, staff officers from various Member States, of widely differing cultural traditions, had studied the problem of their children's education, which of necessity would be strongly influenced by their new environment, an environment which it was difficult to resist. That of course was a real advantage for those who had come to the United States with the intention of adapting themselves completely to a new way of life. But those who had entered the service of an international organization without the slightest desire to become

Americanized, since they wished one day to return to their own countries, felt that American teaching methods and curricula, planned as they were for American children, must inevitably endanger the cultural unity of foreign families. On the other hand, the teaching methods practised at the International School were planned to allow for the possibility of future re-integration in the original environment. Subjects taught included languages, world history and geography and United Nations activities. Each pupil became accustomed to living together with children of differing races, religions and cultures.

42. Since the transfer of United Nations Headquarters to Manhattan, many staff officers had left Parkway Village for new homes in New York City and its suburbs. As a result they had been compelled to withdraw their children from the International School, which had then been forced to accept children whose parents were not United Nations officers, and even to increase school fees, in order to solve its financial difficulties.

43. The International School now had a high reputation, but at the moment it was on the brink of an abyss, as the cash position set out in annex I of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/645) showed. If it succeeded in overcoming its present difficulties it would be able to conclude successfully its negotiations for the equipment of new premises in Manhattan, and would then be able to meet all its expenses. It would be a tragic error to allow the efforts of the staff to be frustrated, at a time when new and favourable prospects were opening for the International School. For the sake of United Nations prestige, so important a staff enterprise must achieve the success it deserved; the efforts made must not be allowed to fail at the last moment because the School lacked a few thousand dollars.

44. Accordingly, his country proposed that the Committee should, by way of exception, make an appropriation of \$20,000 to the International School instead of the \$7,500 requested by the Secretary-General, it being understood that such an appropriation would not constitute a precedent.

45. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) formally supported the Secretary-General's proposal of an appropriation of \$7,500 to the International School. The Australian delegation had always appreciated the work done by the International School, whose merits reflected indirectly upon the United Nations. But although its work deserved encouragement, the Committee should not go as far as the Chilean representative proposed, for the School was a private undertaking, launched by United Nations officers, not by the United Nations itself. It was not the responsibility of the United Nations; and if it proved essential to assist officers in the education of their children, the Assembly should do so by changing the education grant. For that reason the Australian delegation could not support the Chilean proposal.

46. Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) said that the prospects before the International School were somewhat gloomy, as was apparent from the Secretary-General's report. The School's staff were paid lower salaries than teachers at other schools in New York City, and that gap would inevitably widen. It was therefore difficult for the School to obtain the services of the best teachers. In addition, the International School had had to raise its fees, which of necessity

caused a fall in numbers, since many of the parents were not highly paid.

47. Nevertheless, the Indian delegation was unable to support the Chilean proposal, and preferred to vote for the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General. In addition, it felt that the Secretary-General should study the prospects and future needs of the International School.

48. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) said he did not agree with the Australian representative that the work of the International School was a private undertaking launched outside the United Nations. The existence of the International School was of great advantage to the United Nations; if the school was closed the Organization would have to bear an extra burden, since it would have to pay heavy travel expenses every year for children who had to study in their countries of origin. That was a financial aspect of the question which was of paramount importance to the United Nations.

49. The point was not to decide whether the Committee should make an appropriation of \$7,500 or of \$20,000, but to determine the maximum appropriation the United Nations could make to maintain the International School in existence. Such a policy of foresight was essential in the present case.

50. Mr. RAEYMAECKERS (Belgium) and Mr. ERHAN (Turkey) supported the Secretary-General's proposal that a grant of \$7,500 should be made to the International School for the 1956 financial year.

51. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that he too supported that proposal, and that before making up his mind about the Chilean proposal he would like more information from the representative of the Secretary-General on the International School's present position and on the possible implications of the proposal.

52. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) said that his Government fully sympathized with the desire of members of the staff employed away from their home countries to have their children educated in the culture of the home country. Because of that the United Kingdom delegation had already voted in favour of an increase in the education grant paid to officers who sent their children to be educated in their countries of origin. It felt, however, that the International School should in principle be self-supporting and while his delegation would vote for the grant to the School for the year 1956 proposed by the Secretary-General, it felt that the grant should not bind the United Nations for the future. Any request for a grant should be considered at the appropriate time and in the light of the actual needs of the International School.

53. Mr. COHEN (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories), speaking as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International School, stressed how difficult it was for the Secretariat officers to find schools whose teaching methods and curricula corresponded with those of schools in their own countries. Many parents felt that only better knowledge of the language and customs of their own countries could enable their children to escape the influence of the new environment into which they were plunged. However, many of them were not highly paid, and could not send their children home even with the assistance of the education grant.

54. The International School offered a solution to that problem. It should soon be possible to transfer the principal operation of the School to Manhattan, a move-

ment which many voluntary institutions were awaiting with impatience, since the School would then become an important experimental centre in the field of fully international education.

55. In the present position of the International School, however, parents were compelled to make heavy sacrifices, and it was becoming more and more difficult to recruit staff of the right calibre, possessing the intellectual and moral qualities essential for such teaching. All that the United Nations had done so far for the International School would be wasted if the Fifth Committee

did not help the school to overcome the present crisis and survive. If the Committee voted the appropriation which the School needed to emerge from its present difficulties, it could become financially independent during the coming year. It would thus continue to add to United Nations prestige as it had always done in the past.

56. He thanked the representative of Chile and other representatives who had shown a keen interest in the work of the International School.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.