



Twenty-first session
Agenda items 23 and 74

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1967

Financial implications of the recommendations of the
Special Committee in chapter I, paragraphs 325 to 336
of its report (A/6300 (Part I))

Twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered document A/C.5/1094, containing a statement of the financial implications in 1967 arising from the proposals of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples regarding its future work submitted in paragraphs 325 to 336 of its report (A/6300 (Part I)), which the Secretary-General has submitted in accordance with rule 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
2. In paragraphs 326 and 327 of its report, the Special Committee states that, subject to any further directives that the General Assembly might give at its twenty-first session, it intends in 1967 to continue to seek the best ways and means for the immediate and full application of the Declaration with regard to the Territories already examined, to take up for consideration those questions to which it was unable to give adequate attention and to consider further the question of the list of territories to which the Declaration applies. The Special Committee indicates that in its examination of the territories it will continue to be guided by operative paragraphs 8 and 9 of General Assembly resolution 2105 (XX), by which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to pay particular attention to the small Territories.

3. In subsequent paragraphs of its report the Special Committee affirms that it will continue to place great value on visiting missions and indicates that, considering the value and importance attached to the series of meetings the Committee held in past years in Africa, it might hold a similar series of meetings in Africa in 1967. The Special Committee recommends that the General Assembly should approve its programme of work and make adequate financial provision to cover the expenses of the activities of the Committee, including the cost of visiting groups and of another series of meetings in Africa. For these purposes, the Special Committee considers that expenditures in 1967 would be of the order of \$250,000.

4. In presenting his estimates, the Secretary-General acknowledges that, apart from experience gained in past years in respect of visits to Africa, there is no basis for estimating the level of expenditure which might be incurred by the Special Committee in 1967 with any degree of accuracy pending the formulation of more definite plans for missions to be undertaken by that Committee. In this connexion the Advisory Committee notes that the Special Committee has already decided, in principle, that a sub-committee should be appointed to visit Fiji, and that it might in due course decide to send a similar sub-committee to the Caribbean Islands and also to one of the Pacific Islands. For the purposes of the provisional cost estimates, the Secretary-General has assumed in each of these three cases that the mission might consist of five representatives and five supporting staff, and that the visit to Fiji would last three weeks and those to the Caribbean and Pacific Islands some four weeks each. On the basis of these assumptions it is estimated that the total expenditures in 1967 might be approximately \$247,500, as follows:

	\$
(a) Meetings of the Special Committee in Africa	135,000
(b) Visit of a sub-committee to Fiji	21,500
(c) Visit of a sub-committee to the Pacific Islands	64,000
(d) Visit of a sub-committee to the Caribbean Islands	<u>27,000</u>
TOTAL	247,500

Accordingly, the Secretary-General indicates that the amount of \$250,000 proposed by the Special Committee seems reasonable.

5. The Advisory Committee recognizes that, pending determination by the Special Committee of more detailed plans of its programme of work for 1967, it is difficult for the Secretary-General to provide precise estimates of the level of expenditures to be incurred. Given this situation, the Committee is not in a position to make any meaningful appraisal on the level of the Special Committee's needs.

6. This situation notwithstanding, the Advisory Committee is of the view that certain savings could be made in the lump-sum estimate of \$135,000 for the proposed visit of the Special Committee to Africa by a reassessment of the total number of staff required, and by greater utilization of the language services staff, general secretarial and other essential supporting staff from Geneva and, more especially, of similar staff resources and other ancillary services and equipment available at the Economic Commission for Africa. Moreover, as in the past, the Special Committee would look for assistance from the inviting Governments, including provision of local transportation, accommodation and other facilities, not excluding general secretarial and servicing staff, which would serve further to reduce the costs to the Organization.

7. As regards the proposed visits of sub-committees to Fiji and the Pacific Islands, the Advisory Committee, in addition to suggesting a reduction in the number of supporting staff, would hope that it might prove possible to co-ordinate the two visits, and in any event utilize the same supporting staff for both sub-committees thereby realizing some savings in the total estimate of \$85,500 provided under these two headings in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1094).

8. In the light of the above observations and in the absence of a more detailed programme of the Special Committee's activities, the Advisory Committee suggests that the General Assembly may wish to approve an additional credit of \$200,000 under Section 16, Special Missions, of the 1967 budget to cover the expenses of the Special Committee. In the event that actual requirements exceed \$200,000, the Secretary-General should be authorized to meet such requirements, up to a maximum of \$50,000, under the terms of paragraph 1 of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for 1967.