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UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

REVISED COST ESTIMATES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE  
FORCE IN 1966

COST ESTIMATES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE  
FORCE IN 1967

Twenty-first 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 the reports of the Secretary-General of 3 November 1966, (A/6497 and A/6498) dealing respectively with the revised cost estimates of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) for 1966 and the cost estimates relating to the maintenance of the Force in 1967.
2. In a separate report of 7 September 1966 (A/6406), the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1125 (XI), provides information on the organization and functioning of UNEF from 1 August 1965 through 31 July 1966, and includes a table indicating the composition of the Force as of the latter date. On the basis of the latest information available, the situation as of 1 November 1966 was as follows:

<u>Contingent</u>	<u>Type of unit</u>	<u>All ranks</u>	<u>Total</u>
Brazil	Infantry	506	506
Canada	Service units and military police; Air transport unit	709 86	795
Denmark	Infantry and military police; Hospital and medical staff	276 65	341
India	Infantry, service units and military police; Brass band and Headquarters staff	931 45	976
Norway	Infantry and military police	265	265
Sweden <sup>a/</sup>	Headquarters staff	2	2
Yugoslavia	Reconnaissance battalion and military police	707	707
Grand total:			<u>3,592</u>

a/ The Swedish Battalion returned to Sweden on 10 March 1966.

3. In its report to the General Assembly at its twentieth session<sup>1/</sup> on the revised cost estimates for UNEF for 1964, the estimates for its maintenance for 1965 and the initial cost estimates for the Force for 1966, the Advisory Committee also submitted observations on the report of the Survey Team<sup>2/</sup> appointed by the Secretary-General early in November 1965, to undertake a searching examination of the functioning of UNEF with a view to determining whether and where economies might reasonably be made without adversely affecting the basic functions of the Force. As a consequence of the recommendations of the Survey Team, the Secretary-General submitted revised cost estimates for the Force for 1966 in the amount of \$16,489,000, a reduction of \$2,030,000 as compared with the initial estimate of \$18,519,000 for that year.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes,  
agenda item 21, document A/6171.

2/ Ibid., document A/C.5/1049.

4. The Secretary-General had based his initial estimates for 1966<sup>3/</sup> on the assumption that the Force would continue to perform its functions with no major changes in its deployment and method of operations, that its military strength would remain at about 4,600, and that there would be no appreciable increase in the amounts claimed as reimbursements by Governments providing contingents for the Force. The Survey Team recommended, inter alia:

(a) a reduction in the strength of the Force from 4,579 to 3,959;

(b) that the problem of establishing a uniform system of rotation based on one year's service with UNEF should be again explored with the Governments concerned;

(c) that the Rafah base should be surveyed in detail by independent experts with a view to possible consequent savings.

In suggesting that the General Assembly proceed on the basis of the Survey Team's recommendation of \$16,489,000 for the maintenance of the Force in 1966, the Secretary-General observed that numerous problems were involved and that in certain cases prior consultation with the appropriate Governments would be necessary. He stated that the figure would, therefore, be subject to such review as might prove necessary at the twenty-first session of the Assembly in the light of progress actually achieved in implementing the recommendations of the Survey Team in 1966.

5. The Advisory Committee, in noting that adoption of the Survey Team's recommendation on a full year's basis would result in a reduction of \$3.5 million in 1966, rather than the \$2,030,000 recommended by the Secretary-General, and being of the opinion that further savings might well be possible, suggested that the General Assembly establish a target figure for expenditure of \$15 million for the Force in 1966, as compared with the Secretary-General's estimate of \$16,489,000. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in resolution 2115 (XX), appropriated \$15 million for UNEF for 1966.

#### REVISED COST ESTIMATES FOR 1966

6. In submitting his revised estimates for the maintenance of UNEF for 1966 (A/6497), the Secretary-General reports that on the basis of the reduction in the Force and the economies achieved during the course of the year, the total cost for

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<sup>3/</sup> Ibid., document A/6060.

1966 will approximate \$16,146,000. Although this reflects a reduction of \$343,000 based on the Survey Team's recommendations, it represents an increase of \$1,146,000 as compared with the appropriation of \$15 million approved by the General Assembly at its twentieth session. The Committee notes that the amount of the increase might have been reduced by some \$306,000 to a total increase of approximately \$840,000 but for unforeseen costs resulting from a loss of exchange following the revaluation in June 1966 of the Indian rupee (\$206,000), and the necessity of replacing certain military-type jeeps with civilian-type vehicles due to the unavailability of spare parts for the jeeps (\$100,000).

7. In requesting authorization to incur expenditures not to exceed \$16,146,000 for the Force in 1966, the Secretary-General suggests that the General Assembly might wish to agree that the amount of \$1,146,000 over and above the approved appropriation should be financed by transfers from the UNEF surplus account.

8. As noted in paragraph 6 of the Secretary-General's separate report (A/6406), the Secretary-General was able to reduce the size of the Force from 4,579 to 3,959 for all ranks by 31 July 1966, as recommended by the Survey Team in 1965 (A/C.5/1049). The Committee has noted in paragraph 2 above that the total complement of the Force was further reduced to 3,592 as of 1 November 1966. As regards the establishment of a uniform system of rotation, based on one year's service with UNEF, originally recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report to the General Assembly at its eighteenth session,<sup>4/</sup> the Survey Team suggested that the Secretary-General again explore this problem with the Governments concerned. The Committee noted from the Secretary-General's report (A/6406) that of the six countries providing contingents to the Force at 31 July 1966, three maintained a six-month rotation schedule. The Survey Team also recommended that an independent survey be made of the UNEF Rafah base. The Committee understands that such a review has taken place and that certain savings have been effected.

9. As regards the 1966 revised cost estimates contained in part A of table I of document A/6497, the Advisory Committee noted the substantial increased requirements for the purchase of motor transport and heavy mobile equipment. Although the Secretary-General has indicated the unusual circumstances making the additional

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<sup>4/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 19, document A/5642.

funds necessary, the Committee, being aware of the total extent of the transport fleet and the high estimate provided in the budget for the maintenance and operation of motor transport, considers that the replacement of the vehicles could have been spread over a longer period. The Committee would also have expected that the reduction in the Force by some 987 persons during 1966 would have led to greater savings under part B of the estimates.

10. The Advisory Committee, while acknowledging that the Secretary-General has achieved some desired reductions in the total estimates for the Force for 1966 by following the recommendations of the Survey Team, is of the view that additional savings could have been realized had a more vigorous effort been made to comply with the General Assembly's decision to contain costs for that year within a total expenditure of \$15 million. The Committee would hope that should such a situation arise in the future, stricter compliance with the General Assembly's decision would be possible.

11. These observations notwithstanding, the Advisory Committee does not object to the Secretary-General's suggestion that the General Assembly might wish to agree that the additional actual requirements should be transferred from the UNEF surplus account to finance the balance of the 1966 costs not covered by the appropriation previously voted by the General Assembly.

#### COST ESTIMATES FOR 1967

12. The Secretary-General's estimate of the costs of maintaining the Force for 1967 (A/6498) in the amount of \$14,304,000 represents a reduction of \$1,842,000 as compared with the revised estimate of \$16,146,000 for 1966. In this connexion, the Secretary-General proposes a further reduction in the size of the Force to a total complement of 3,400 officers and men, resulting in a reduction of \$1,240,000 in the costs under part B, relating to reimbursements to Governments of their extra and extraordinary costs in providing contingents, giving a total estimate of \$6,340,000 as compared with the revised estimated expenditure of \$7,580,000 for 1966. The balance of the reduction, amounting to \$602,000 as compared with the revised estimate for 1966, is reflected in part A, relating to the operating costs incurred directly by the United Nations. The estimate of \$7,964,000 under part A for 1967 compares with the revised estimate of \$8,566,000 for 1966.

13. In presenting his estimates the Secretary-General referred to his separate report of 7 September 1966 to the General Assembly (A/6406) in which he pointed out that a Force of 3,400 as envisaged would be operating without an effective reserve, and that there was, perhaps, an element of risk in this, but only in the event of some unanticipated emergency. He also stated that any significant lowering of the basic strength of the Force would make it impossible for it to carry on as a peace force with its present functions and responsibilities, and would have the unavoidable result, for all practical purposes, of changing the nature of the operation in a fundamental way.

14. As noted in paragraph 3 above, the reorganization of UNEF during 1965-1966 resulted from the recommendations of a United Nations Survey Team, which sought means of economizing and reducing the size of the Force without lowering the effectiveness of the operation. The Secretary-General advises that most of the recommendations of the Survey Team have now been implemented.

15. The Secretary-General explains that as a result of the recommendations of the Survey Team he was in a position to effect certain savings in the internal functioning of UNEF headquarters, and that some staff posts have been abolished. The Secretary-General reports that the staff resources in the new establishment are being adjusted gradually as the incumbents complete their tours of duty.

16. In its examination of the Secretary-General's cost estimates for UNEF for 1967, the Advisory Committee kept in mind its belief that the revised estimates for 1966 could have been contained at a level lower than that proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/6497. While noting that most of the recommendations of the Survey Team for 1966 have been implemented, the Committee considers that a continuing review of all administrative, operational and logistic expenses affecting UNEF is essential, and that it should be possible to effect further reductions in the costs of maintaining the Force.

17. In this connexion the Advisory Committee hopes that the Secretary-General will continue his negotiations with the Governments concerned with a view to establishing a uniform rotation system based on one year's service with UNEF, thereby effecting further reductions in the estimates for 1967. It is also of the view that savings could be obtained by reducing the cost to the United Nations of reimbursement in respect of extra and extraordinary costs relating to pay and allowances of contingents under section 8 (part B) of the estimates.

18. The Advisory Committee has already mentioned, in paragraph 9 above, its concern about the high cost of purchases of vehicles and it notes that the 1967 estimates provide for 106 new vehicles plus four items of related equipment, for a total estimate of \$379,500. In view of the reduction in the Force, the acquisition programme might be somewhat reduced. It should also be possible to effect reductions in most of the other chapters under section 2 (Operational expenses). As regards section 6 (Non-military personnel), the Committee would look for economies in the costs of international and local staff commensurate with the reductions for the military and observer personnel.

19. The Advisory Committee recognizes that the relatively small number of sources of contingents, the necessity of maintaining the international character of the Force, and conditions that may be made by the various parties involved, present some problems, but the Committee is of the opinion that by concerted efforts directed towards achieving economies on the lines suggested in paragraphs 16 to 18 above, it will be possible to effect reductions in the costs of maintaining the Force in 1967.

20. In the light of the foregoing the Advisory Committee recommends that the UNEF estimates for 1967 be reduced by \$304,000, from \$14,304,000 to \$14 million.

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