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BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1951

Financial implications of resolutions adopted (a) by the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session, and (b) by the Trusteeship Council at its seventh regular session and third special session

Twenty eighth report of 1950 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1951 submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/423.
2. The estimates are set out below:

	Original estimate re- commended by the Advisory Committee on <u>Dollars (US)</u>	Supplementary estimate (1972/73/423) <u>Dollars (US)</u>	Revised estimate sub- mitted by the Secretary- General <u>Dollars (US)</u>	Revised estimate re- commended by the Advisory Committee <u>Dollars (US)</u>
Section 3. The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees	228,200	370,900	599,100	533,900
Section 22. Regional Economic Commissions	57,300	12,400	69,700	69,700
Section 23. The Trustees- hip Council, Commissions and Committees	85,000	(-31,400)	53,600	53,600
Section 27. Official Records	870,000*	5,000**	875,000	875,000
Net total of supplementary estimates		<u>\$356,900</u>		

* Estimate approved by the Fifth Committee.

** Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Slavery \$3,500; report of the Economic Commission for Latin America (Portuguese edition) \$1,500.

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3. Section 20 of the 1951 budget estimates, as approved in first reading by the Fifth Committee, includes a sum of \$61,300 for one Geneva session of the Trusteeship Council during 1951. In view, however, of the decision to hold both the 1951 sessions of the Council at Headquarters, the Secretary-General has proposed, and the Advisory Committee agrees, that this provision should instead be made available to the following bodies, which are now expected to hold sessions in Geneva during the coming year -

Social Commission

Commission on Human Rights

International Law Commission

Committee for the establishment of an international criminal court

Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press*

Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities*

Sessions of the Economic and Social Council

4. As regards the decision of the Economic and Social Council that both sessions in 1951 should be held away from Headquarters, the Advisory Committee considers it necessary to submit the following considerations:

(a) Budgetary consequences

The additional cost of holding the two sessions away from Headquarters is as follows:

	<u>Dollars (US)</u>	<u>Dollars (US)</u>
<u>Twelfth session (Santiago)</u>		337,800
<u>Thirteenth session (Geneva)</u>		
Section 3	75,000	
Section 20	<u>99,200</u>	<u>174,200</u>
		512,000
<u>Less miscellaneous income (contribution of the Government of Chile towards the expenses of the twelfth session)</u>		<u>112,000</u>
Net additional cost		400,000

* The holding of a 1951 session of these two bodies is contingent upon decisions still to be taken by the Economic and Social Council.

/(b) Administrative

(b) Administrative consequences

Under the Secretary-General's proposals, approximately fifty substantive staff members would be assigned to each of the two sessions and would consequently be absent from their departments at Headquarters for a total period of twelve to thirteen weeks in a single calendar year. The General Assembly has on previous occasions recommended that sessions of the various organs of the United Nations should as a general rule be held at Headquarters, while the Secretary-General has indicated* that "the Secretariat cannot be held responsible for economy and fullest administrative efficiency if the General Assembly appropriates moneys for rotating meeting places in the face of its own recommendations".

The Committee also draws attention to the serious consequences, both budgetary and administrative, which the holding of sessions of the Council away from Headquarters equally entails for the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations which assign representatives to such sessions.

5. It may further be noted that the decision to retain the conference area at Lake Success until 30 June 1951 was prompted in part by the necessity for ensuring sufficient facilities to accommodate and service one session of the Council (A/C.5/395, paragraph 3).

6. In the event, however, that the General Assembly approves the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee would in any case suggest a reduction in the number of staff members to be assigned from Headquarters. As regards the twelfth session of the Council at Santiago, the number of substantive staff members should, in the opinion of the Committee, be limited to thirty, since the session is not expected to exceed four weeks in duration and less urgent items can, if necessary, be deferred until the thirteenth session in July 1951. A reduction of fifteen in the number of Headquarters technical staff (150) proposed to be assigned to Santiago is similarly recommended. As regards the Geneva session of the Council, the Committee considers that the provision of \$75,000 in the original budget estimates for travel and subsistence of some fifty substantive and twenty-five technical staff members should be reduced by \$10,000. The effect of the above recommendations is to reduce the proposed provision under section 3, chapter I,

* A/903, page v. (See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Supplement No. 5).

for the 1951 sessions of the Economic and Social Council by approximately \$60,000 to a figure of \$352,800.

7. Economic and Employment Commission

The Advisory Committee was informed that it is now proposed to schedule only one session of the Economic and Employment Commission during 1951, and that a second session of the Commission, if requested by the Economic and Social Council after consultation with the Secretary-General, would be financed from the Working Capital Fund. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the proposed additional provision should be reduced from \$12,600 to \$8,000, with a corresponding reduction in the estimate for local transportation from \$1,700 to \$1,100.

8. On the basis of the above observations, and subject to the decision of principle on the venue for the 1951 sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee recommends that the supplementary estimates should be approved in the following amounts:

	<u>Dollars (US)</u>
Section 3	315,700
" 3b	12,400
" 4	(minus 31,400)
" 25	5,000

9. The revised figures thus recommended for appropriation are as follows:

	<u>Dollars (US)</u>
<u>Section 3. The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees</u>	533,900
<u>Section 20. Regional Economic Commissions</u>	69,700
<u>Section 4. The Trusteeship Council, Commissions and Committees</u>	53,600
<u>Section 25. Official Records</u>	875,000