



Fifth session  
Agenda item 67

COMPLAINT OF FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO REPATRIATE OR OTHERWISE  
ACCOUNT FOR PRISONERS OF WAR DETAINED  
IN SOVIET TERRITORY

Financial implications of the draft resolution proposed by  
the Third Committee (A/1690)

Fortieth report of 1950 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/444) on the financial implications of the draft resolution proposed by the Third Committee (A/1690).
2. Under the terms of paragraph 3 of the proposed resolution, the Secretary-General is requested "to establish an Ad Hoc Commission composed of three qualified and impartial persons chosen by the International Red Cross or, failing that, by the Secretary-General himself, with a view to settling the question of the prisoners of war in a purely humanitarian spirit and on terms acceptable to all Governments concerned."
3. The estimate submitted by the Secretary-General in respect of the year 1951 includes provision for the payment of fees in addition to travelling and subsistence expenses. The Advisory Committee considers, however, that the principles originally laid down in General Assembly resolution 231 (III) of 8 October 1948, and re-affirmed in the resolution concerning subsistence allowances for members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies which was adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 1950 (A/1596), preclude the payment of fees to the members of such a commission. The Committee also considers that the proposal, if adopted, would establish a further undesirable precedent for the United Nations and a situation likely to create difficulties for the International Red Cross; and that, in any case, no difficulty need be

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anticipated in securing the services of qualified and impartial persons willing to serve, as a matter of honour and obligation, on the Ad Hoc Commission on the normal terms approved by the General Assembly for expert bodies of the United Nations.

4. On this basis, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed provision for fees should be deleted and that, instead, the rate of daily subsistence allowance should be raised from \$12.50 to \$25.00 at Headquarters and \$20.00 in the field. The total of the remaining items can, in the nature of the case, only be a rough estimate, and the Committee recommends therefore an appropriation of \$35,000 under section 1 of the 1951 budget estimates. This represents a reduction of \$10,000 on the figure submitted.

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