

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4624
7 December 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session
Agenda item 61

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Thirty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session

1. By resolution 1439 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, the General Assembly decided to contribute to the International School Fund for a period of five years such continuing financial assistance as the Assembly might consider necessary. It decided further to make a contribution of \$100,000 to the Fund in 1960 for the purpose of liquidating the operating deficit at the end of the 1959-1960 school year and for such other purposes as the Board of Trustees deemed fit. Furthermore, the Secretary-General was requested to present to the General Assembly at its fifteenth session: (a) a report by the Board of Trustees of the School on the establishment and operations of the International School Fund; (b) his recommendations, together with the comments of the Advisory Committee, on future contributions to the Fund and means of financing such contributions; and (c) a report on progress which has been made in finding permanent accommodation for the School.
2. The Secretary-General's report (A/4541 and Corr.1 and 2) on these various matters, to which is annexed the report of the Board of Trustees of the School, has been considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
3. The principal purpose of the action taken by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session was to assist the School over a period of five years in order that the resulting financial viability of the School during this period might facilitate efforts to secure permanent accommodations for the School and to place it on a self-supporting basis. As the Secretary-General points out in his

report (A/4541, para.4), the General Assembly has expressed its view that a successful future for the School is intimately linked with its housing in permanent accommodations in Manhattan. The Assembly has also requested the Secretary-General to continue to use his good offices to assist the Board of Trustees in finding suitable permanent accommodation for the School, in developing plans for a building, and in pursuing its efforts to raise funds from private sources for the construction of the building, and, if necessary, for the acquisition of a site therefor.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has pursued, through the use of his good offices, the consummation of steps which might help the Board of Trustees to meet the problem of permanent accommodation for the School. The Committee would join the Secretary-General in expressing appreciation for the assistance and co-operation of the Mayor of the City of New York and City officials with regard to both the extended availability of the present temporary premises and the search for a permanent site in the vicinity of the Headquarters and at reasonable cost. The Committee notes further the spirit of cautious optimism which is reflected in the Secretary-General's statement that consultations and discussions now in progress give ground for hope that headway can be made in 1961 towards the acquisition of a particularly suitable site at a cost which will attract the required voluntary support for its development, thus offering the prospect of the School's current problems being satisfactorily resolved within the five-year period envisaged in resolution 1439 (XIV).

5. On the financial side, deficits totalling \$70,420 as at 30 June 1960 were liquidated by use of the United Nations contribution of \$100,000, leaving a balance of \$29,580 still available in the International School Fund.

6. As regards the school year 1960-1961, the anticipated financial position reflects the following factors:

(a) Expenditure estimates are based on staffing and other arrangements which are geared to a total anticipated enrolment of 400; however, actual enrolment is only some 374, thus leading to a probable shortfall of about \$25,000 in tuition income. The Advisory Committee understands that among the reasons for the lower enrolment is the heavier than usual withdrawals from the School partly as a result of transfers and mission assignments of United Nations and delegation parents. The lower enrolment and the accompanying efforts to increase enrolment of children

regardless of association with the United Nations have also led to more non-United Nations children being enrolled. Thus, the enrolment as at 29 November 1960 comprises 172 children of parents associated with the United Nations and 202 others; the figures on a corresponding date in 1959-1960 were 164 and 165, respectively.

(b) In order to stabilize enrolment and improve teacher/pupil ratios, secondary school fees were increased from \$800 to \$1,000 a year; at the same time, provision for scholarships and bursaries was increased from \$27,000 in 1959-1960 to \$64,000 in 1960-1961 in order to maintain and improve the proportion between United Nations and non-United Nations children through making the School available to many children whose parents could not otherwise afford the fees. The bursary programme includes rebates, on request through application, of up to \$200 per child to pupils affected by the fee increase, where the parents are members of delegations, staff members of the Secretariat or persons associated with the United Nations.^{1/}

7. Expenditure, excluding bursaries, is estimated at some \$365,600 against an initial estimate for income of \$362,900. However, allowing for an anticipated shortfall in income of \$25,000 consequent upon the lower enrolment, the estimated deficit excluding bursaries would amount to \$27,700; with the bursaries, the deficit would be of the order of \$91,000. After taking account of the balance of some \$29,500 still available in the International School Fund, the net deficit would be about \$61,500.

8. In addition, the Secretary-General has indicated that, should the present efforts and discussions in respect of the acquisition of a site for permanent premises and of the necessary financial support from private donors succeed, a sum of approximately \$20,000 is likely to be required during 1961 for the development of plans and estimates and related expenses.

^{1/} The following is a breakdown of the 1960-1961 bursary provisions:

- (a) Rebate for multiple enrolment from same family - \$20,000
- (b) Rebate, on application, in respect of secondary school fees of pupils whose parents are associated with the United Nations - \$15,000
- (c) Scholarships for United Nations-associated pupils - \$21,000
- (d) Scholarships for non-United Nations pupils - \$8,000 (to be offset by income credit in budget).

9. While the expanded bursary programme for 1960-1961 was intended in part to increase enrolment so that the School might approach economic viability, the results in this regard have not been as marked as initially envisaged. Reference has been made in paragraph 6 (a) above to the large number of withdrawals resulting in part from transfers and mission assignments of parents associated with the United Nations. The expansion of the bursary programme, without an accompanying and proportionate increase in enrolment, explains a substantial part of the anticipated deficit for 1960-1961.
10. The substantial anticipated deficit for the school-year 1960-1961 is a matter of some concern both because of the apparently unrealistic expansion of the bursary programme in relation to income from tuition fees and of the fact that staffing and other expenses are geared to an enrolment above that which has actually materialized.
11. The Secretary-General, in paragraph 10 of his report, has underlined the point that the future of the School is especially important in view of the increasing number of expatriate children whose parents are associated with the United Nations, resulting from the steadily expanding membership of the Organization, and has expressed the hope that, in line with the spirit of the decision embodied in resolution 1439 (XIV), the General Assembly will find it possible to make an appropriate grant to the International School Fund for 1961. As regards the method of financing such United Nations assistance, the Secretary-General states that, in the light of the discussion at the last session, the General Assembly may wish to continue making direct grants rather than pursue his earlier proposal to utilize the net proceeds of the United Nations Gift Centre.
12. The Advisory Committee would suggest that the General Assembly, in acting along the lines reflected in the Secretary-General's report, might wish to emphasize two points: (a) that the efforts to meet the basic objective of securing permanent accommodation for the School and of putting it on a self-supporting basis should be intensified; and (b) that the School should endeavour to promote a greater measure of viability by a more active enrolment policy without a necessarily proportionate increase in expenditure.