



Fifteenth session  
Agenda item 50

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1961

Revised estimates under part V - Technical programmes

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/850) in which he proposes (a) that an additional amount of \$5 million should be made available for technical programmes under part V of the 1961 budget estimates so that, within the context of an all-round expansion of aid, the level of technical assistance to newly independent States could be raised; and (b) that, in the event of major delays in fully implementing the programme for 1961, the Secretary-General would request a reappropriation for 1962 of such amounts as may be unspent and surrendered at the end of 1961.
2. The needs of newly independent countries have been the subject of special attention in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council during the past year. By resolutions 1414 (XIV) and 1415 (XIV) of 5 December 1959, the General Assembly underlined the importance and desirability of extending to territories emerging from a trust status and newly independent States all possible international assistance, and invited the Council and the Secretary-General to give particular attention to this question. The Council, in resolution 752 (XXIX) of 14 April 1960, expressed the hope that additional funds would be made available to the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund for 1961 and following years to permit a substantial increase in the assistance given to newly independent countries, while fully maintaining or increasing aid given to other regions. The

Council also requested the Secretary-General to present a full report on this question to the Council at its thirtieth (July 1960) session.

3. As a result of its consideration of the further report of the Secretary-General (E/3387 and Add.1), the Economic and Social Council on 21 July 1960 adopted resolution 768 (XXX) in which, after stressing the fact that the emergence of newly independent States, in Africa and elsewhere, called urgently for additional international assistance, the Council stated that special efforts must be made to provide, within the existing framework of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, prompt and effective assistance to those countries, including the provision on an adequate scale of operational and executive personnel. The Council also requested the Secretary-General and the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board "to prepare, so far as possible, detailed programmes for consideration, respectively, by the General Assembly at its fifteenth session, and by the Technical Assistance Committee at its November 1960 session, for meeting the additional needs of newly independent and emerging States, without prejudice to assistance to other countries." The Council recommended further that the General Assembly make appropriate provision for these purposes in the budget of the United Nations.

4. As regards the Expanded Programme, the Economic and Social Council, by resolution 788 (XXX) of 3 August 1960, decided to increase from 5 to 7 1/2 per cent of the estimated resources the limit of contingency authorization for urgent needs in 1960, mainly to provide additional assistance to newly independent countries.<sup>1/</sup> For 1961, the pledges announced so far indicate an increase in total resources of the order of \$7.8 million. The major part of this increase is to be reserved for the newly independent countries, in the form of a supplementary programme; the United Nations share for 1961 has been established at \$1.6 million. Thus, assuming that this share would continue to be available for 1962 and without an increase in the budgetary appropriation under the regular technical assistance programme, additional resources available to the United Nations for assisting the newly independent countries would, it is stated

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<sup>1/</sup> The limit of the contingency authorization, which is administered by the Executive Chairman of TAB, was thus increased for 1960 from about \$1,650,000 to some \$2,475,000.

(A/4585, para. 22), amount to only about \$3 million in 1961-1962, as against anticipated requests amounting to \$10 million.

5. In the case of the regular budget, the Secretary-General had originally proposed an annual appropriation of \$2.5 million for the next two years for this purpose (E/3387). He has since found it necessary to propose instead that the appropriations for 1961 and 1962 be combined and a sum of \$5 million be made immediately available in 1961, on the understanding that any unspent balance of funds surrendered at the end of 1961 would be reappropriated for 1962.

6. The Secretary-General submitted a detailed report (A/4585) on these matters, including the outcome of a mission headed by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, which was organized, at the invitation of the Governments concerned, to carry out on-the-spot consultations with the Governments of Cameroun, Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Niger and Upper Volta. After considering this report, the Second Committee at its 701st meeting adopted a draft resolution (A/C.5/850, annex) by which the General Assembly, inter alia, would decide, within the context of an all-round expansion of aid, to raise the level of technical assistance to newly independent and emerging States, and would note with satisfaction the Secretary-General's proposals (A/4585) for increased assistance to these States from the regular budget of the United Nations. The Second Committee also adopted, at its 711th meeting, a draft resolution (A/C.5/850/Add.1) by which the programme for the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (OPEX) would be placed on a continuing and expanded basis generally on the lines of proposals submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/4589. The revised estimate for part V of the 1961 budget, which the Secretary-General has presented (A/C.5/850) follows the developments cited above.

7. The Advisory Committee has consistently taken the position that the amounts to be appropriated for technical programmes under part V of the budget depend on a decision of policy to be taken by the General Assembly concerning the level of technical assistance to be provided from the regular budget, in the light both of a substantive assessment of needs and circumstances and of over-all budgetary considerations. The Committee's comments<sup>2/</sup> on the initial 1961 budget estimates

<sup>2/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement  
No. 7 (A/4408), paras. 230-254.

for this purpose were offered within the scope of the foregoing general view. Subject to the same approach, the Committee has inquired into the extent of assistance which could be effectively programmed in 1961 and the amount of expenditure that would, in fact, arise in that year. The Committee understands that, according to the best estimates that are possible at the present time, some \$3.5 million out of the total of \$5 million would be needed in 1961, with the balance arising in 1962. There would therefore be advantage in limiting the appropriation for 1961 to \$3.5 million, especially in view of the over-all financial situation of the Organization at the present time.

8. In his report (A/C.5/850), the Secretary-General has proposed that, in the absence of an adequate basis for apportioning the total amount among the different fields of assistance (economic development, social activities, and public administration, including the OPEX programme), the additional appropriation should be made available as a separate provision and that its allocation to the individual sections should be determined by the Secretary-General with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. The Secretary-General's earlier report (E/3387) had envisaged that the needs would be limited to economic development (section 13) and public administration, including the OPEX programme (section 16); however, a further analysis of needs and requests for assistance has shown that several of these are in various fields which fall under social activities (section 14), such as housing and community development.

9. The Advisory Committee has doubts as to the wisdom of a lump-sum appropriation without even an approximate break-down among the relevant sections of the budget. The Committee believes that the principal purpose of the proposal for a lump-sum appropriation subject to later allocation to individual sections in the light of more definite information as to needs in different fields would be equally met by a tentative allocation at this stage on the understanding that the Advisory Committee would review and authorize any necessary transfers between the sections in question. The Committee has obtained such a tentative break-down of the total amount for 1961 of \$3.5 million (see para. 10 below).

10. The Advisory Committee understands that action along the lines reflected in paragraphs 7 and 9 above would adequately meet the 1961 needs covered by the Secretary-General's proposals and would not cause any difficulties in the active

implementation of the programme of assistance. The Committee accordingly recommends that should the General Assembly decide, as recommended by the Second Committee, on a substantial increase in technical assistance provided from the regular budget of the United Nations, the Assembly might wish to approve an additional provision of \$3.5 million under part V of the 1961 budget, as follows:

<u>Budget section</u>	<u>Initial estimate</u> \$	<u>Additional amount</u> \$	<u>New total</u> \$
13. Economic development . . . . .	480,000	1,490,000	1,970,000
14. Social activities . . . . .	1,200,000	760,000	1,960,000
16. Chapter I - Public administration training and research . . . . .	300,000	700,000	1,000,000
16. Chapter II - OPEX	300,000	550,000	850,000
	<u>2,280,000</u>	<u>3,500,000</u>	<u>5,780,000</u>

The appropriations recommended for section 15, Human rights activities (\$100,000), and section 17, Narcotic drugs control (\$50,000) would remain unchanged.

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