

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3439
10 December 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eleventh session
Agenda item 43

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1957

Revised estimates for sections 8 and 28

Establishment of regional social affairs units

Thirtieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the eleventh session of the General Assembly

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/665) in which the experience so far gained in the outposting of certain social affairs staff is reviewed and revised proposals are submitted concerning the establishment of regional social affairs units in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.
2. The Secretary-General included in his initial budget estimates for 1957 (A/3126^{1/}) provision for these three regional social affairs units. In its report on those estimates (A/3160, paragraphs 94 to 98^{2/}) the Advisory Committee offered provisional comments and recommendations pending a further review of the question to be made in the light of its consideration by the Economic and Social Council and in the light also of the report to be presented by the Secretary-General.
3. While taking note of the action already adopted and the further proposals contained in the 1957 budget estimates, the Economic and Social Council, at its twenty-second session, considered that a final decision should be reached only on the basis of adequate experience and, further, that, subject to the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 5.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 7.

General Assembly's approval, the arrangements should be continued until the end of 1957 on an experimental basis (resolution 360 B (XVII) of 9 August 1956). Further, the Advisory Committee's earlier comments in its budget report (A/3160) would seem to have contributed to a fresh review of the entire question within the Secretariat, resulting in a clarification of the various issues that are involved.

4. The Advisory Committee is prepared, in view of these developments, to recommend approval of the proposed establishment of these regional units. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will keep the operation of these units under review in the light of the further experience to be gained during 1957.

5. As regards the staff proposed for the units in 1957, the Secretary-General, referring to the Advisory Committee's earlier comments, has pointed out that the functions of the officials to be attached to the units will include both regular secretariat work and advisory services to the Governments in the respective regions. The Secretary-General has also found it possible to reduce by one Professional and two General Service posts the regular staff that had earlier been proposed. He proposes, further, that, in order to carry out these activities within the over-all budget totals requested for social activities, the additional costs (\$75,000) should be offset by a corresponding decrease in the appropriation under section 28 (Technical programmes: social activities).

6. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, the Secretary-General's proposals represent a reasonable approach to an admittedly difficult problem and an attempt to reconcile the requirements of sound budgeting with the practical aspects of implementing the programme. The Committee accordingly recommends that (a) the appropriations under section 8 - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - should be increased by an amount of \$75,000; and (b) the appropriations under section 28 - Technical programmes: social activities - should be correspondingly reduced to a total of \$925,000.
