



Ninth session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
(CHAPTERS IV AND V)

United Nations Narcotics Laboratory

Financial implications of draft resolution I
proposed by the Third Committee (A/2829)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. A. LIVERAN (Israel)

1. In accordance with rule 15⁴ of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee considered, at its 481st meeting held on 10 December 1954, the financial implications of draft resolution I proposed by the Third Committee (A/2829) on the subject of the establishment at Geneva of a United Nations Narcotics Laboratory.
2. In a statement to the Fifth Committee on the financial implications (A/C.5/609), the Secretary-General had estimated that, should the resolution be adopted, the costs involved in 1955 would approximate \$29,850. The cantonal authorities of Geneva had offered to provide the United Nations with material assistance to the value of \$6,350 towards the establishment of the narcotics laboratory in Geneva. Thus, the net increase to the United Nations budget, section 18 (European Office of the United Nations) would be \$23,500.
3. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/2842) on this question, while not disagreeing with the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General, was of the opinion that it was not necessary to make specific additional provision in the 1955 appropriations for this purpose. The Committee noted that it was not expected that the laboratory

would be in operation before September 1955 and that the forthcoming review of the European Office by the Secretary-General might lead to further economies. With these points in mind, the Advisory Committee suggested that it would prove sufficient, in the event that the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee were adopted, to authorize the Secretary-General to proceed, if necessary, with the construction of the laboratory during 1955 and to finance the costs out of savings on section 18 cr. failing that, out of savings on other sections of the budget during 1955. Should it not prove possible to finance the project in 1955 by means of savings, the Advisory Committee suggested that it would not be unduly difficult to make provisional arrangements for the remainder of that year. In such an event, provision for a more permanent arrangement could be included in the 1956 budget.

4. During the consideration of this item by the Fifth Committee, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that, while the Secretary-General would attempt to meet any necessary expenditures in 1955 from savings, that might not prove possible. Further, it might also prove impracticable, in the event that such savings did not materialize, to defer to 1956 all expenditures relating to the establishment of the laboratory. Thus, the Secretary-General would, in the event that expenditures in 1955 were involved which could not be met from savings, seek the concurrence of the Advisory Committee for authority to make the necessary expenditures from the Working Capital Fund. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee indicated that that Committee could agree to such an arrangement.

5. Certain delegations pointed to the fact that, while not disagreeing with the location of the narcotics laboratory in Geneva, the question of the location of an activity of the United Nations had administrative as well as financial implications. It was further noted by one delegation that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 1955 session would review certain broader aspects of the research programme and of the use of that programme as a whole.

6. The appreciation of the Fifth Committee for the offer made by the cantonal authorities of Geneva was also placed on record.

7. The Committee decided, by 32 votes to none, with 5 abstentions, to inform the General Assembly that, in the event of the adoption by the Assembly of the draft resolution proposed by the Third Committee on the narcotics laboratory (A/2829), the estimated net cost would be \$23,500; and to recommend to the General Assembly that this amount should be provided from savings in the 1955 budget rather than by specific additional provision. Failing this possibility, the Secretary-General should be authorized to consult with the Advisory Committee regarding ways and means to finance any necessary expenditures during 1955.
